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INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

HEALTH RECORDS



In this undated file photo released by the Virginia State Police, Seung-Hui Cho is shown. Missing mental health records for Virginia Tech gunman Seung-Hui Cho have been found more than two years after the massacre, Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine said Wednesday, July 22, 2009.

See World News Page B3

SPORTS NEWS

UNSUITABLE



In this photograph taken on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, David Tarwater adjusts his suit prior to the start of the finals of the men's 100-meter freestyle at the U.S. National Swimming Championships in Indianapolis.

See Sports Today Page B10

At Sr. Frogs on Friday starting at 6PM

Christian Audigier Fashion Show Aruba & Red Carpet Event

Models arrive last night to prepare for event



Photo by Julia Renfro

ORANJESTAD – Last evening just before sunset, ½ dozen of the long legged models from the USA arrived on Suriname Airways from Miami. The ladies were met by local coordinators including Aruba's very own super model Angie Thijzen and then were escorted to Sr. Frogs and later to "The Underground" by a stretch limo hummer.

The dinner starts at 6 PM for only \$20 and includes not only the dinner, but the exciting Red Carpet Event showcasing Christian Audigier Fashion.

Widely considered one of the most meteoric rises in fashion history, Christian Audigier has parlayed his design experience



Photo by Julia Renfro



Photo by Julia Renfro

and business acumen to become a true fashion icon and entrepreneurial sensation in

less than four years. Through his collection of international companies, he has launched nine popular brands with over sixty licenses. He oversees an international conglomerate of his designer

brands, including Ed Hardy®, Christian Audigier™, SMET™, Crystal Rock™, most recently C-Bar-A™, Savoir Faire™, Evel Knievel™, Rock Fabulous™, and Paco Chicano™; this includes US and international

wholesale distribution, as well as US and international retail stores.

Christian made his mark throughout the fashion industry after am fortuitous start at MacKeen Jeans. He has contributed to successful brands such as Diesel, Fiorucci, Bisou Bisou, Levi's, NafNaf and

American Outfitters. Christian's style is so distinctive that he is known as the "King of Jeans." □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Photo by Julia Renfro

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DOUBLE CHEESE BURGER



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At Creation Aimee

H-BOMB boutique explodes with trendy fashions



PONTON- Creation Aimee's H-Bomb opens with a soft opening on July 15, 2009. The evening was an explosion of Art, Fashion & Music. The owners of the trendy boutique are Heidi Davis Munzenhofer and Jess Wolff.

Jess presented her vintage collection and Heidi presented her her Mini bomb Collection. The boutique is full of hand made accessories, Monster Doll Collection, Vintage accessories and fun and stylish clothing from casual to formal.



H - Bomb



Don't miss our Plentiful Paella!

A dinner under the Caribbean sky!

Las Ramblas

Tapas & Charcoal Grill

The menu features authentic spanish tapas and entrees such as delicious Seafood Paella, USDA Beef Tenderloin & New Zealand Lamb Chops from the charcoal grill.

Open from 6.00pm - 10.30pm. Closed on Sundays and Wednesdays.
Reservation recommended
For reservation call 520-1100 ext. 6154

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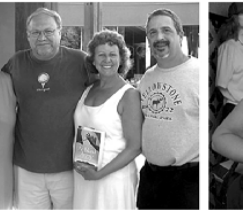
The evening wear is by Mori Lee fashion collections which are well known all over the world for its beauty in the fashion world. Heidi & Jess are known for their art in creating gorgeous creations to fit any size. The Mori Lee dresses can also be special ordered and can be found at www.morilee.com.

The evening was filled with a fun crowd of friends, artists and fashionistas whom enjoyed music by Data Panick DJ Session. Heidi & Jess would like to thank everyone who attended in making this

evening successful. H Bomb Shopping Center at Caya E.O Heimee Petronia 72. ☐



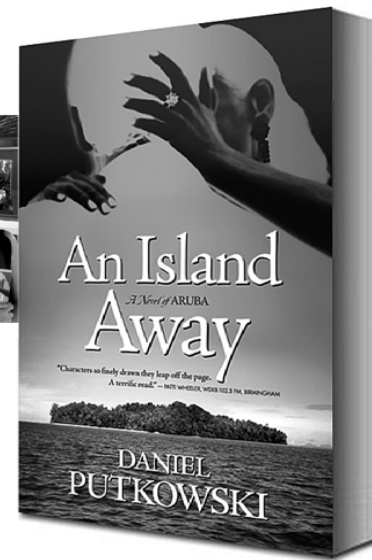
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Samsom Bookstore - Antraco Retail Center
Antraco Bazaar - Casa Del Mar
Ocean Drive - Aruba Marriott Resort

Island Life - Marriott Ocean Club
Mistral - La Cabana
Red Sail Sports - Hyatt Regency Resort
Red Sail Sports - Port of Call
Tropical Breeze - Radisson Resort
Tradewynds - Westin Resort
Tropical Market - Marriott Ocean Club
Tropical Temptations - Costa Linda



In the "PROTOCOL LEONCITA" Mike Eman shows that:

Retirement Age Has To Be Set At 60 For Everyone

This Includes Ministers And Members Of Parliament

ORANJESTAD - Wednesday morning the dynamic leader of the AVP party, Mike Eman, together with Leoncita Arends, host of the most listened to radio program on Aruba "90 BISAMI", signed the "Leoncita Protocol". In this agreement different agenda points of a new government are brought forward as is the change or the beginning of the change that the AVP party will be making in its first 100 days of government.

The issue regarding the pension plan has already been published in the media. According to this plan Mike Eman said the retirement age would stay at 60 and a "Flex-pension" will also be introduced in which those who want and can continue working after they turn 60 years old can do so and when they want to stop working and receive their pension they will receive it with an additional sort of interest on the money they left. A good initiative that was well thought out and is very balanced.

The next question automatically is, what will the retirement age of our Ministers and Members of Parliament be? Aruban politicians can go into retirement at a much younger age than other Arubans. Many people find this unfair and this is why Leoncita asked the leader of the AVP party, Mike Eman, how an AVP government would handle this issue.

Mike Eman: "The retirement age for everyone on Aruba has to be 60. This is not only an idea of the AVP, but also for some years now the opposition party submitted a petition to change a law in Parliament that would raise the retirement age of the Ministers and the Members of Parliament to 60. Right now the retirement age for Ministers is 45 and 50 for Members of Parliament. Under the present government our AVP fraction did not receive the necessary support in order to pass this law in Parliament. That is why the AVP party will make sure that one of the first things they do during their first 100 days in office is to process this law and the retirement age of the Ministers and the Members of Parliament will be set at 60. This will be done in order to settle the ongoing discrepancy. It cannot be so that we tell our citizens that they have to wait until they are 60 years old in order to retire while our Ministers and Members of Parliament can retire at a much younger age." Mike goes on to say that this is not to criticize those who organized it like it is now or those who are or did use the present law. It is fair and in its place to give some explanation regarding this matter. We all know that politics on Aruba is very polarized. Someone who always worked as a Member of Parliament and fought fiercely and behaved polemically with others in the process often becomes a victim



of the aggression of politics in this country.

If a person was a public servant, most of the time he would not be hired at a law firm or bank because was politically tainted, even though this person was in possession of the right qualifications for a good

job. This was the mentality at the time of the introduction of the lower retirement age for the Members of Parliament and the Ministers.

Finally Mike Eman adds that if one day there is a discussion regarding the retirement age, since it is under pressure, no

government can just set the retirement age higher. AVP's viewpoint is that there has to be a referendum regarding this matter. AVP is of the opinion that the people are the ones in charge of such decision and not the politicians or government



The Earlybird Menu

Served between 4 pm & 6.30 pm

Soup of the day

Mixed Salad or Ceasar Salad

Catch of the day

Filet Mignon

Fettuccini Alfredo

Chicken Breast

Hot chocolate fudge Sunday

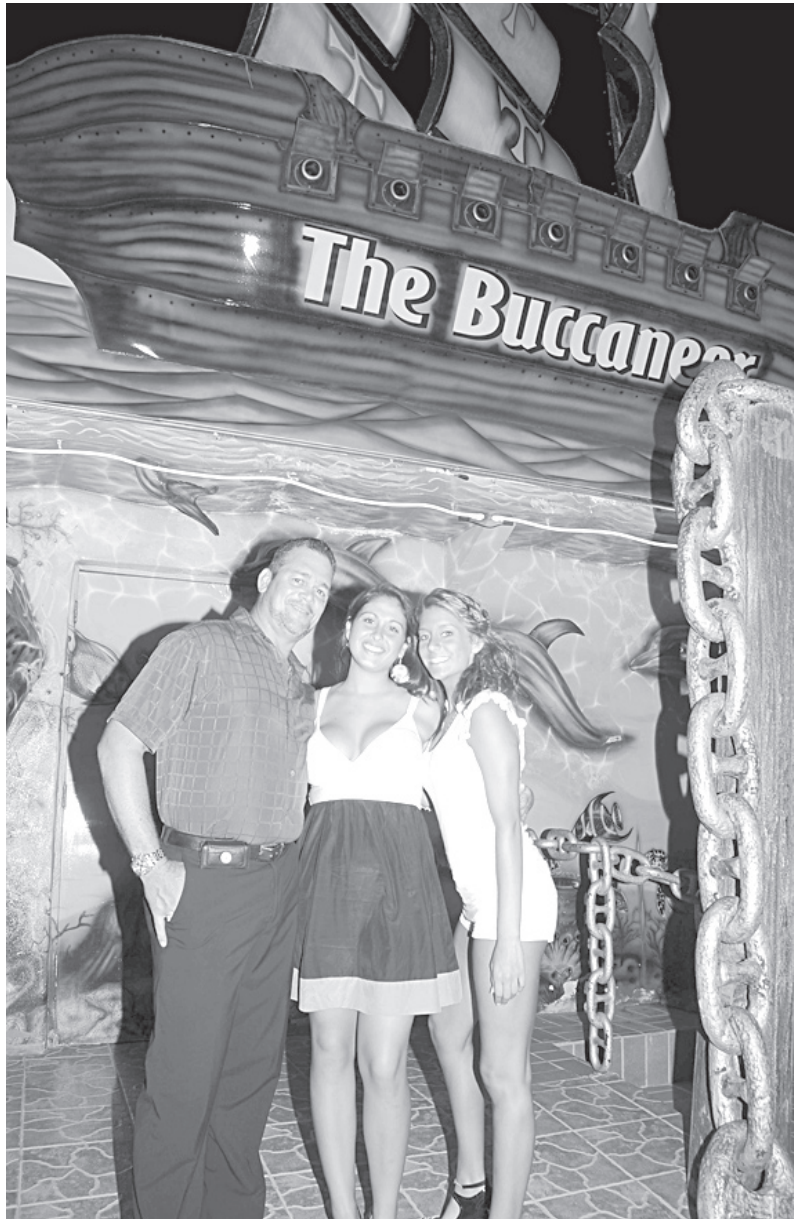
All main courses are served with potatoes au Gratin & fresh vegetables
The early bird menu is priced at \$ 21.75

Service charge not included.

For reservations call 586-3659

At Buccaneer Restaurant

Happy 18th Birthday Taylor Diraimo



at the fabulous RIU Resort and enjoyed everything that the island offered for a fun relaxing vacation.

"The vacation was awesome, we snorkeled on the catamaran, enjoyed the fabulous Tattoo party cruise, enjoyed Hooters and even enjoyed the experience through the island blackout while dining at Smokey Joe's.

Taylor's uncle, Richard Grosser, a Buccaneer fan, called the owner of the legendary Buccaneer restaurant to reserve a special table for his niece. Taylor and friends were overwhelmed with the gorgeous 7,500 gallon aquariums containing turtles, shark's lobsters and a colorful array of Aruba's fish. Their dining experience was tremendous with delicious food and a great ambiance. The Buccaneer staff brought out a cake for Taylor and sang happy birthday with her friends.

The Buccaneer Restaurant and Aruba Today wish you a Happy Birthday blessing ☐

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer

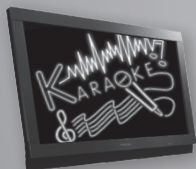
NOORD- Recently a special birthday celebration for Taylor Diraimo of Rochester New

York took place at the famous seafood restaurant Buccaneer. Taylor is visiting Aruba for

the first time with 25 friends who enjoyed a great vacation in paradise. They were guests

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The drawings will take place each week at 8 PM according to the following schedule:

| | | |
|----------------|---------|-------------------------|
| July 9th | Crystal | AWG 7500 |
| July 16th | Seaport | AWG 7500 |
| July 23th | Crystal | AWG 7500 + weekend stay |
| July 30th | Seaport | AWG 7500 + weekend stay |
| August 6th | Crystal | AWG 7500 |
| August 13th | Seaport | AWG 7500 |
| August 20th | Crystal | AWG 7500 + weekend stay |
| August 27th | Seaport | AWG 7500 + weekend stay |
| September 3rd | Crystal | AWG 7500 |
| September 10th | Seaport | AWG 7500 |
| September 17th | Crystal | AWG 7500 + weekend stay |
| September 24th | Seaport | AWG 7500 + weekend stay |

For more information please call: 523-6318 of 523-6437
Winner must be present at the drawing with valid ID to claim their prize.



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OneCaribbeanWeather –

The Weather Network Dedicated to the Caribbean - Now Available

ORANJESTAD - The much anticipated official launch of a full-scope Caribbean & Central America weather channel has happened.

Driven by customer demand, OneCaribbeanWeather channel now provides the many details your constituents have been missing, all on one channel. "Many television service providers now provide our new, unique service and we hope to obtain further coverage from other operators who have not yet launched. The Service is currently available in Dominica, St Lucia and soon Jamaica" states Tony Marchand, President of Lorac Communications. "Our goal is to become the one, most valuable weather resource residents and tourists go to daily, during severe weather, for their activity planning, weekly forecasts, boating, surfing, tide information and international weather."

OneCaribbeanWeather is the first and ONLY weather channel specifically dedicated to the unique weather in the Caribbean. Anchored by well known meteorologist, Joey Stevens, the channel offers a full complement of weather experts dedicated to our region. Their diverse team of experienced meteorologists, take their weather seriously, but have fun doing it and provide a very different and more localized flavour for viewers.

The talented weather staff at WSEE, a channel also distributed by Lorac Communications, created the concept for an inclusive Caribbean weather forecast on WSEE three years ago in response to a need in the region for expert, more detailed local information. OneCaribbeanWeather channel provides highly-customized local weather as well as international weather

highlights. It is the most up-to-date television resource available for weather and warnings for the Caribbean Region, with over 32 island countries and nations covered. "Around the world, a local, effective weather service is considered invaluable and universally appreciated by subscribers and we hope we can optimize our growth by word-of-mouth from those impressed with our diverse and timely local content."

OneCaribbeanWeather is currently covered in many systems around the region. If your television service provider is not yet carrying the channel, please call them and inquire about their launch plans.

WSEE and Lorac Communications Inc. are the partners in both OneCaribbeanWeather and their soon to be launched OneCaribbeanWeather.com

Union settles prison battle

~ ABVO: 'We definitely got some real results' ~

PHILIPSBURG--Curaçao-based union ABVO failed to have St. Maarten's prison director removed Monday, but convinced the Justice Ministry to extend control of the prison to others. The union said it was satisfied with the outcome of meetings with Antillean Justice Minister David Dick and Prison Director Ricardo Rudsel on Monday.

The minister called the meetings a good first step towards St. Maarten running its own prison system.

Dick agreed to a five-person management team to "take pressure off the one director" by granting to four other persons authority to mediate and control various prison services. ABVO had hoped to oust Ricardo after numerous complaints from guards, but considered the results an amicable solution.

ABVO also had suspensions of two guards on what it called trumped-up charges revoked. Guards met with union representatives to pressure the minister to handle their concerns Thursday. ABVO representative Sajoel Richardson said: "Our biggest grievance is with the management or non-management for that matter." ABVO was happy with the results. "The management team takes over a lot of responsibility from the director," Richardson told The Daily Herald. "It's no longer a one-man show." ABVO also discussed sick leave and other labour issues with the minister.

Dick said these discussions were part of St. Maarten's journey towards being an autonomous country. "We had a good meeting," he said. "I always wanted to handle the problems on a structural basis." He continued: "That is a very big step that we needed."

Richardson lauded the minister. "We definitely got some results," Richardson said. □



Bermuda's youth to be tested by Caribbean's best

Some of the top young cyclists in the region head to Bermuda this weekend as the island prepares to host the Junior Caribbean Cycling Championships. The two-day event features a 17.5k time trial starting at Middle Road, Paget and finishing at Bermuda College and an 18 lap 72km road race around the centre of Hamilton.

Among the top contenders on the Bermuda squad are Hayley Evans and Sophie Adams, who picked up bronze medals at the 2008 championships. Riders from 11 Caribbean nations are expected to participate with Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Barbados and Curacao

among the favourites.

Bermuda Bicycle Association president Peter Dunne said the girls' team - Evans, Adams, Claire Hawley, Michela Eberly and Izabella Arnold - would be strong medal contenders. For the boys Philip Woolridge, a veteran of the three previous Caribbean Cycling Championships, will be the sole representative in the junior category for 17-18-year-olds.

Teammates Ryan Gunn, Tre'Shun Correia, Marquis Cann and Dominique Mayho will compete in the Juvenile category. Gunn participated in the 2008 Championships in Curacao while Correia, Cann and Mayho have come

into cycling in the past year through the BBA's new high school programme.

The time trial starts at 7am on Saturday with the Road Race taking place from 7.30am on Sunday. Traffic restrictions will be in place along the routes until 8:30am on Saturday and until 12:30pm on Sunday.

"We apologize for any inconvenience caused to the public, but have tried to select a route and a time that causes minimum disruption as well as creates an exciting course for the competitors. We hope that the public will come out and support these youngsters," added Dunne. □

Every Friday

The Mexican Fiesta Dinner Sail is a must do activity

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To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsailaruba.com.

Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.

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- Live Mariachi Band
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For rewards log on www.texasdebrazil.com

PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers up a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but **Texas de Brazil's** version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, **Texas de Brazil** will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11 pm
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to make reservations, please call 586-4686. ☐



From Ireland to Aruba

Stephen & Martina Harkin become one in paradise



BUCUTI – On July 16, 2009, The lovebirds met at Eddie Martina Lynch & Stephen Murphy's charity Barnyard Harkin of Donegal, Ireland Dance on September 13, 2008 in Ireland and have been became one under Aruba's sun. inseparable ever since.



Stephen proposed on March 25, 2009 at KT3 William Hotel Penthouse in Belfast and at that special moment they decided the wedding date would be his birthday. Martina visited Aruba in 2004 on a cruise and always knew she would return to the island but never thought it would be for their wedding destination. They planned their wedding with wedding coordinator Nashette Wouters of Bucuti Resort. The beach ceremony took place on the pristine sand along the soft rolling turquoise waves with 18 loved ones who witnessed the union of marriage. Robert Gibson delivered the romantic sermon as Stephen & Martina exchanged vows and rings. Following the "Once in a lifetime photo shoot" with Bella Aruba Photography the guests and newlyweds toasted to an everlasting love



and dined under the stars at The Pirates Nest restaurant at Bucuti Resort. "It means the world to us that so many family members and friends could join us in our special day" stated Mr. & Mrs. Harkin and added "The whole

ArubaExperienceiswonderful, our wedding planner Nashette was amazing, the Bucuti staff are so friendly and helpful in making our wedding-moon one to remember."

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer



Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of **Driftwood Fishing Charters**, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant **Driftwood** in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

Rates:

\$380 - 1/2 day

\$760- full day

Rates per boat

Max. 6 people



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.

Driftwood Restaurant

Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant

Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad

Tel: (297) 583 2515

www.driftwoodaruba.com

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



CasaTua Barcelona Downtown & Pizzeria Palm Beach

The Casa Tua Barcelona downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating while the Pizzeria Palm Beach location serves their guests on a cozy outside terrace.

Both restaurants serve the same brick-oven thin crusted pizzas and both poor the same homemade Sangria. Where the restaurants differ from each other is certain menu items and the opening hours. Casa Tua Barcelona downtown is open for lunch with delicious lunch specials from Monday till Friday. One lunch special is a \$ 9.95 Beef Tenderloin with red wine sauce. All nights of the week Casa Tua Barcelona serves Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you should choose the



fabulous Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by the chef!

The staff at both popular eateries have set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dinning pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

Casa Tua Barcelona offers a live flamenco show on Fridays while you can enjoy daily live music at Pizzeria Arawak. Wherever you decide to go, you won't be disappointed.



At Arawak Gardens enjoy the EarlyBird Special:
From 5.30 – 7.00 for \$ 19.95

Choice: Soup or Salad as appetizer, Chicken Breast Francesa or Linguini Pomodoro or Penne Pesto or Pasta Carbonara as main course and a choice of Flan a l'orange or chocolate mousse as dessert.

Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown
open from 11.30am – 10.30pm,
Sundays from 5pm – 10.30pm Tel.
588 5695

Casa Tua Pizzeria Palm Beach
open from 5pm to 11pm 7 days a
week tel 586 8470



An Intimate Wedding on Bucuti Beach Resort's renowned Dream Beach of the World



Eagle Beach - Mr. Robert Anthony Soto & Mrs. Krista Marie Lopez Soto, exchanged their vows on Bucuti's 14 acres of pristine, powder white beach with a fiery red

sun setting behind them. "On a scale of 1 to 10 we rate Bucuti a 10+!" expressed Mr. and Mrs. Soto. Originally from Gallup, New Mexico the couple now lives in San Diego,

California. The couple met 10 years ago and Robert Soto planned the proposal, while he was deployed in Iraq. While overseas he managed to secretly purchase a beautiful

wedding ring from the bride's Uncle, who is a jeweler in New Mexico. Robert was stationed in Iraq for 7 months when he met up with Krista in the magical city of Sedona, Arizona. He arranged a hot air balloon trip for them and during the trip, asked her to be his wife. "It was very romantic, as we waited for the perfect moment, and that was at sunrise!" the starry-eyed bride explained.

The couple opted to celebrate an intimate wedding and a romantic week to follow, with just the two of them. Krista and Robert explain how they chose Aruba and Bucuti" ... through our research on-line, we saw that the beaches were made up of white sand and the water was a gorgeous turquoise color. Bucuti Resort was recommended by our travel agent because we explained

to her that we wanted to have a romantic week and to be able to just concentrate on us. We did not want a loud setting around us and Bucuti was the greatest choice we could have made!!! The staff is wonderful! Nashette (our wedding planner) was so helpful! To our surprise, the owner took the time to come congratulate us after the wedding, and that was very much appreciated!

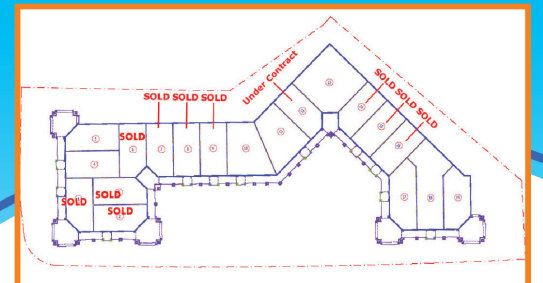
"Our videographer and photographer did exceptional work!!"

"Aruba is amazing!!!! It is like being in a different world; we cannot wait to go back for our 1 year anniversary! Bucuti is great!" said the smiling newlyweds.

Mr. and Mrs. Soto celebrated their honeymoon in one of Bucuti's award winning Tara Beach Suites. □

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Eating Habits in the Obese May Echo Drug Addicts' Patterns

By Amanda Gardner
HealthDay Reporter

When it comes to weight control, it might not be the kind of snack that matters, but who eats it.

When researchers gave similarly "sinful" snacks to obese and non-obese women, the healthy-weight women wanted less of the treat over time, but obese women kept wanting more.

"Obese and non-obese women respond to high-energy, high-density snacks in different ways," said Jennifer Temple, lead author of the study, which appears in the August issue of the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. "For us, this underscores a need for really doing detailed studies comparing obese and non-obese women in terms of how they respond to food to try to understand things that work better to improve healthy eating."

"You can't take what you see in non-obese women and think it will automatically have the same effect in obese women," added Temple, an assistant professor in exercise and nutrition science at the University at Buffalo, in New York.

Such information could one day be useful in tailoring

dieting strategies for different people.

According to background information in the study, only 10 percent of people who lose weight through dieting and exercise manage to keep that weight off for five years.

Scientists have postulated that one reason for the high failure rate is that people feel deprived of their favorite foods and end up making up for their period of abstinence.

In an earlier study, the same research team had found that "food reinforcement," the term they use to describe motivation to eat, decreased in non-obese women who were asked to consume their favorite snack, be it M&Ms or Oreo cookies, for days at a time.

"After two weeks of eating the same snack food, the women came back into the lab and said, 'I don't ever want to see a potato chip again,'" Temple said. "They had no interest in working for the food."

But 300 calories is a large portion, so the researchers decided to do a similar study but with smaller (100-calorie) portions as well as the large portions. In addition, a third group of women consumed no snack calories. The study included 31 obese and 27 non-obese women.

All participants were asked to "work" for their food by performing tasks on a computer program set up as a sort of slot-machine. When all of the shapes on the screen matched, volunteers earned points toward eating.

The women were given pre-packaged portions of their favorite snack to eat every day for two weeks. Snacks tended to fall into one of two categories: high-fat and high-sugar (cookies, candy bars) or savory, meaning just high in fat (such as potato chips).

"For the zero and 100-calorie portions, the obese and non-obese groups looked the same," Temple said. "The food reinforcement didn't change before and after the two weeks, which would be expected."

However, non-obese women who snacked on 300-calorie portions exhibited no increase in motivation to eat, but motivation did increase in obese women who consumed the larger portion, the study found.

"They actually worked harder for the food," Temple said. "This was surprising to us. We had anticipated in the beginning that we might not see a decrease or as large of a decrease, but we didn't expect to see an increase."

In some cases, women reported still wanting the food even though they didn't like it.

The pattern is strikingly similar to that seen in drug addicts.

"We're exploring this idea of sensitization, which happens with drug use," Temple said. "Response to a drug

will actually decrease over repeated use."

And that leads to more drug use.

"I stop short of calling overeating an addiction," she added. "I don't think it has all of the same properties, but I think we can learn something about overeating behavior from the drug world. We're applying the same experimental paradigms to food and trying to see if obese people might be more susceptible to having an increased response to repeated food administration."

Marianne Grant, a registered dietitian and health educator with the Texas A&M Health Science Center's Coastal Bend Health Education Center in Corpus Christi, said that something else could be at work.





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Mixed earnings put brakes on stock market rally



Men walk in and out of the Goldman Sachs headquarters building in 2008 in New York. Wall Street investment bank Goldman Sachs said Wednesday it paid the US government 1.1 billion dollars to redeem warrants, or options, associated with the Treasury's capital injection program.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/Chris Hondros)

By TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Investors aren't giving up on the stock market's rally, but they're not making big bets either. Stocks ended a quiet day mixed Wednesday as traders were hesitant to commit more money to the market after a weeklong surge. The Dow Jones industrial average and the Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped, while the Nasdaq composite index rose. A mix of earnings reports drove trading. Apple Inc. and Starbucks Inc. jumped on their results, but chip maker Advanced Micro Devices Inc. and big bank Wells Fargo & Co. slid. The market's incremental moves weren't surprising after strong earnings reports for the

April-June quarter lifted major stock indicators up more than 8 percent in just seven days. The gains reignited a rally that ran from early March through mid-June before stalling as signs of improvement in the economy started to dry up. Analysts say it's not surprising to see the market slow its climb as investors raise their expectations. "As the earnings season goes on, it becomes more difficult because the bar goes higher and higher," said John Canally, economist at LPL Financial in Boston. The Dow fell 34.68, or 0.4 percent, to 8,881.26. The broader S&P 500 index slipped 0.51, or 0.1 percent, to 954.07, and the Nasdaq rose 10.18, or 0.5 percent, to 1,926.38, helped by Apple

and Starbucks. It was the 11th straight gain for the Nasdaq. Major market indexes seesawed Wednesday as they had a day earlier. Stocks pushed higher late Tuesday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the economy was recovering, though at a slow pace. Earnings reports directed trading Wednesday. Apple rose \$5.23, or 3.5 percent, to \$156.74 after robust sales of laptops and iPhones pushed its profit and revenue above what analysts had expected. Starbucks surged \$2.70, or 18.4 percent, to \$17.39 after the coffee chain shut stores, laid off workers and cut other

costs to produce fiscal third-quarter results that topped expectations. Advanced Micro Devices fell 53 cents, or 13 percent, to \$3.55 after its second-quarter loss narrowed less than analysts expected. Wells Fargo joined other banks in reporting that losses from bad loans kept rising although its second-quarter earnings rose 47 percent. The stock fell 90 cents, or 3.6 percent, to \$24.45. Bond prices fell, pushing yields higher. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.55 percent from 3.48 percent late Tuesday. The dollar was mixed, while

gold prices rose. Light, sweet crude fell 21 cents to settle at \$65.40 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Advancing stocks narrowly outpaced those that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 1.1 billion shares compared with 1.2 billion Tuesday. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 3.48, or 0.7 percent, to 528.70. Overseas, Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.3 percent, Germany's DAX index gained 0.5 percent, and France's CAC-40 added 0.1 percent. Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 0.7 percent. □

EBay net, revenue beats Street, shares up

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) — Ebay Inc (EBAY.O) on Tuesday posted a quarterly net profit and revenue that beat Wall Street expectations, and shares rose more than 3 percent. The company, which connects sellers and buyers online through auctions and fixed-price sales, gave a third-quarter profit forecast in line with analysts' estimates. EBay also includes Web payments unit PayPal and Internet telephone company Skype, which it is trying to spin off, likely next year. Second-quarter net profit was \$327.3 million, or 25 cents per share, from \$460 million, or 35 cents per share, a year

earlier. Excluding one-time items, eBay earned 37 cents per share, a penny above the 36 cents per share expected, on average, by analysts, according to Reuters Estimates. Revenue fell 4 percent to \$2.1 billion -- above the \$1.99 billion, or 9 percent drop, expected by Wall Street. The company's marketplaces division saw a 14 percent drop in revenue while sales in fast-growing PayPal jumped 11 percent. Sluggish growth at eBay's marketplaces division -- which began with online auctions but now encompasses classifieds, fixed price sales and shopping sites -- has kept shares of eBay

pressured, and the company has pointed to fast-growing PayPal as its future growth driver. Operating margins fell to 19.6 in the quarter from 24.8 percent a year earlier, the company said, hurt by the effect of the stronger U.S. dollar against foreign currencies. EBay said it expects third-quarter adjusted earnings per share in a range of 34 to 36 cents per share, compared with the 35 cents per share expected by Wall Street. Shares in eBay rose 3.3 percent to \$20.10 after closing on the Nasdaq at \$19.45, up 2.75 percent in the regular session. □

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Aruba TODAY

Dollar steady as economic optimism tempered

NEW YORK (AFP) – The dollar held in a narrow range against the other main currencies Wednesday in cautious trade amid mixed US corporate results and renewed concerns about prospects for the US economy.

The euro dipped slightly to 1.4219 dollars at 2100 GMT from 1.4227 late Tuesday in New York.

The dollar meanwhile was trading at 93.56 yen after 93.73 late Tuesday.

Sentiment was affected by an earnings report from US bank Morgan Stanley, which revealed a worse-than-expected loss for shareholders of 1.25 billion dollars in the second quarter.

Reinforcing the dollar's appeal in a time of economic

uncertainty was congressional testimony from Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke, appearing before lawmakers for a second day.

Fred Rabb, analyst at PNC Bank, said trading was affected by "increased concern that the US economy will take longer than expected to recover."

He said Bernanke delivered a "sobering message" on the economy, suggesting that interest rates will need to remain at low levels for some time to support growth, with inflation pressures subdued.

"This lowered outlook for inflation can be attributed to the Fed's projection of a prolonged economic recovery and its view of financial markets as stressed," Rabb said.

"These suggestions by the Fed encouraged risk aversion and have caused the dollar to strengthen."

Jon Gencher at BMO Capital Markets said traders have been unimpressed by generally strong US corporate earnings. "By and large corporate earnings have been better than expected although there is the skeptical slant that would suggest that some of the results are impacted by the degree of stimulus that has been pumped into the system and can't go on forever," he said.

The euro was also under pressure from a report that factories in the 16 nations



A one-dollar chrome printing plate. The dollar held in a narrow range against the other main currencies Wednesday in cautious trade amid mixed US corporate results and renewed concerns about prospects for the US economy.

(AFP/File/Shawn Thew)

using the single currency saw demand fall in May compared with April, contrary to expectations.

New industrial orders fell by 0.2 percent in May, the European Union's Eurostat data agency said, bringing the drop over 12 months to 30.1

percent.

"The risks for the euro are now building," said analysts at BNP Paribas.

In late New York trade, the dollar stood at 1.0654 Swiss francs from 1.0657 Tuesday.

The pound was at 1.6474 dollars after 1.6463. □

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Debbie Allen: Let Michael Jackson Rest at Neverland



Marc Malkin
Los Angeles (E! Online) – Add Michael Jackson's longtime friend Debbie Allen to the list

of folks who think the late King of Pop should be buried at Neverland.
"I really wish he could be there,"

the Fame choreographer told us last night at the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences TV Moves! 2 Live dance event, adding, "Michael just loved being there. It was his fantasy come true."

Allen remembered spending time at the legendary estate with her kids...

"We had so many great days there," she said. "The movie theater, the train, the animals, the lions, the game room, the candy, the popcorn—all these things I can never forget."

Jackson was the perfect host, Allen said.

"I remember going up there with my son, my daughter and a lot of their friends," she said. "One time, he took my son on all the rides. They had such a good time on the bumper cars."

Allen choreographed a tribute to Jackson at last night's event, which featured dances to "Jam," "Never Can Say Goodbye" and "Remember

the Time."

"I really wish he could be [at Neverland]," she said, "but I have no idea what's going to happen." □

Kiefer Sutherland gets NYC assault charge dropped



FILE - In this Jan. 25, 2009 file photo, Kiefer Sutherland arrives at the 15th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles, file)

NEW YORK — Kiefer Sutherland's legal troubles for allegedly head-butting a fashion designer in a New

York City nightclub are over. The Manhattan district attorney's spokeswoman said Tuesday that misdemeanor assault charges against the actor are being dropped because the alleged victim wouldn't cooperate with prosecutors.

The star of the Fox TV show "24" was charged in May after designer Jack McCollough said Sutherland head-butted him and broke his nose in a Manhattan nightclub. Sutherland and McCollough issued a joint statement a few weeks later saying they had resolved their differences. Sutherland apologized to McCollough in the statement. Sutherland's attorneys declined to comment. □



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Depp's next role unclear as green lights delayed

By Steven Zeitchik and Borys Kit

LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter) — Johnny Depp is coming off an acclaimed role in "Public Enemies" and stars in one of the most anticipated movies of this weekend's Comic-Con, "Alice in Wonderland."

But the Mad Hatter is facing an unusual situation: Like the character he plays in "Alice," he soon could be killing time.

Depp is attached to a number of high-profile development properties but is facing a landscape devoid of "go" pictures -- those ready for production. Instead, there are a dizzying number of possibilities and schedule permutations, none of which seems likely to result in a produced movie for him anytime soon.

Producers have been interested in Depp for the title role in Warner Bros.' "The Incredible Mr. Limpet." Kevin Lima's remake of the 1964 fantasy comedy that would continue a whimsical, if slightly less drama-intensive, streak for the actor. He has not signed on, however, and in any event the pic would not go into production until next year.

Meanwhile, the fourth installment of "Pirates of the Caribbean" remains a priority for Disney and producer Jerry Bruckheimer. At an earlier point, it was going to be the next picture for Depp, who toplines as Jack Sparrow. But with Gore Verbinski no longer directing the franchise, the ship has slowed.

Disney is seeking a new director, a process that could take time. □

Lawyer: Police seek Jackson manslaughter link

By JUAN A. LOZANO and THOMAS WATKINS,

Associated Press Writers

HOUSTON — Authorities searched the Houston clinic of Michael Jackson's doctor Wednesday, and his attorney said they were seeking evidence of manslaughter.

Dr. Conrad Murray had been interviewed by police as a witness to the pop star's death, but has not been considered a suspect. Police have said little about the probe, neither confirming or denying the possibility of criminal charges.

Los Angeles police and agents with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration went through the Armstrong Medical Clinic on Wednesday for about 2 1/2 hours. Authorities said they were searching for documents.

"These search warrant authorized law enforcement to search for and seize items, including documents, they believed constituted evidence of the offense of manslaughter," Ed Chernoff, Murray's attorney, said in a statement posted on his law firm's Web site. The Harris County warrant remains sealed and unavailable to the media.

Chernoff said agents left with "a forensic image" of a computer hard drive and 21 documents.

Houston police surrounded the building as the investigators went inside at about 10:30 CDT. DEA spokeswoman Violet Szelezky said about 20 people were in the Armstrong Medical Clinic, including employees.

A neighborhood crowd gathered to watch the raid until agents left after 1 p.m. and Houston police told reporters and the onlookers to leave the clinic's property.

Murray has emerged as a central figure in the investigation. The doctor, who had been recently hired by Jackson, was with him in his mansion and tried to revive him.

Szelezky said the agents were looking for Murray's records, not drugs, but wouldn't



A Houston narcotics officer leaves Dr. Conrad Murray's Armstrong clinic where Los Angeles police and agents with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration were searching for documents Wednesday, July 22, 2009 in Houston. A lawyer for Michael Jackson's doctor, Dr. Conrad Murray, says police who searched the physician's north Houston clinic were searching for evidence of manslaughter.

(AP Photo/Pat Sullivan)

specify further. She declined to say how the search related to Jackson's death.

The search of Murray's office hard drive indicates authorities are looking not just for patient records but also for e-mails either between the doctor and Jackson or orders for prescription drugs, said Harland Braun, a prominent Los Angeles defense attorney who has represented doctors in cases involving administration of drugs.

Meanwhile, investigators in California also sought more information from Murray, according to Chernoff.

In a statement on his site late Tuesday, Chernoff said investigators from the Los Angeles County coroner's office have asked for medical records in addition to those already provided by Murray.

"The coroner wants to clear up the cause of death; we share that goal," Chernoff said in his statement. "Based on Dr. Murray's minute-by-minute and item-by-item description of Michael Jackson's last days, he should not be a target of criminal charges."

It's still not known what caused Jackson's death at age 50.

The pop star went into cardiac arrest in his bedroom and

Murray performed CPR while an ambulance was called, according to Murray's lawyers.

An autopsy was conducted but results are not expected until next week. The Jackson family had a second autopsy performed and those results also are pending.

Braun said of Wednesday's raid in Houston that by stating they are investigating what they believe is manslaughter, authorities don't need to worry about patient-doctor confidentiality — the right doesn't exist in criminal cases.

To prove a charge of manslaughter, authorities must prove there was a reckless action that created a risk of death or great bodily injury. If a doctor is aware of the risk, there might also be an issue of whether the patient was made aware of that risk and decided to take it. A patient's complicity in taking the risk could reduce the doctor's culpability, Braun said.

Investigators have found the powerful anesthetic propofol in Jackson's home, according to a person with knowledge of the investigation. The person is not authorized to speak publicly and requested anonymity. □

Review: Scares, dark laughs in 'Orphan'



In this film publicity image released by Warner Bros., Isabelle Fuhrman is shown in a scene from, 'Orphan.'

(AP Photo/Warner Bros., Rafy)

By CHRISTY LEMIRE,
AP Movie Critic

LOS ANGELES — Esther is unfailingly polite, a sensitive painter and pianist, a vision of traditional feminine charm in her prim dresses and bows. But this 9-year-old also has a way with a hammer and a handgun and knows a thing or two about arson and destruction of evidence.

Yes, she's complicated, the little girl at the center of "Orphan," a descendant from a long line of cinematic evil children. Still, despite similarities to predecessors like "The Bad Seed" and "The Omen," this well-crafted flick has frights all its own.

Director Jaume Collet-Serra, working from a devilishly clever script by David Leslie Johnson, maintains steady suspense while mercifully mixing in some moments of dark humor. He's got a strong cast to work with in Vera Farmiga, Peter Sarsgaard and CCH Pounder (Claudette from "The Shield"), but in young Isabelle Fuhrman, he has a formidable force. Fuhrman, who was just 11 when she shot "Orphan," can command the screen with just a sunny smile or a menacing glare. She's called upon to do some gnarly stuff here and more than rises to the challenge.

Sure, sometimes Esther seems like an impossibly unstoppable killing machine — like a Soviet-era spy in a pint-size body — but seeing how far "Orphan" will go is

part of the fun.

Farmiga and Sarsgaard star as Kate and John, a wealthy Connecticut couple reeling from the stillbirth of their third child. Wanting to give all that love to a child who needs it, they decide to adopt the Russian-born Esther, who's obviously more than a little different from the other girls at the orphanage. (Pounder plays the nun who arranges the adoption.) Still, that's much of the allure in their eyes, that she is her own person.

When the couple brings her home, their son, Danny (Jimmy Bennett), immediately feels threatened by her. (He has no idea how right he is.) But their other daughter, Max, takes to her and in no time looks up to her as a big sister. The character is hearing-impaired, as is the actress playing her, Aryana Engineer, who expresses so much emotion by just widening her eyes or scrunching down to hide amid her stuffed animals. She's adorable but she's also crucial to showing us just how rotten Esther truly is.

Soon, accidents start occurring, flare-ups at school and on the playground, and Esther always happens to be around. Kate grows suspicious but John frustratingly fails to believe her, the product of lingering mistrust because of her previous alcoholism and irresponsibility. You want to grab him by the shoulders and shake him, he's so blind to Esther's wicked ways, even as the damage worsens.

Then again, Esther's so sweetly manipulative, she's hard to resist; in some of the ridiculous moments she shares with John, you don't know whether to laugh with "Orphan" or at it.

Farmiga runs and screams and flails a lot — "Orphan" is reminiscent of 2007's evil-child thriller "Joshua," in which she also starred as a besieged mom — but she also brings believability to Kate's inner demons, which are so relevant to the way she responds to the increasingly dangerous Esther. □

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The Bistro's menu offers everyone's favorites, but with a culinary Belgian twist. This might be an unusual

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President Barack Obama and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki walk to a joint news conference, Wednesday, July 22, 2009, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

Pullout from Iraq on schedule, Obama says

STEVEN R. HURST

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said Wednesday the United States will stick to its schedule and remove all its troops from Iraq by the end of 2011 even though there will be “tough days ahead.”

Standing at the White House alongside Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, Obama said the two nations were in the midst of a “full transition” that would be based on mutual interest and respect.

He brushed off some American military complaints that Iraq was placing too many limits on what U.S. troops could do after their recent withdrawal from Iraqi cities.

Obama cited differences in strategy between Iraqi security forces and U.S. troops who have pulled back from the cities but remain in the country. There are still more than 130,000 U.S. forces in Iraq. “Overall, we have been very encouraged by the progress that has been made,” Obama said.

He said that does not mean there are not persistent dangers inside Iraq and militants who “still resort to killing innocents and senseless bombings.”

It was Obama’s first meeting with al-Maliki at the White House. They met in Iraq in April.

Obama said the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq’s cities should “send an unmistakable signal that we will keep our commitments with the Iraqi people.”

“We’ll move forward with our strategy to responsibly remove all American combat brigades from Iraq by the end of next August and to fulfill our commitment to remove all American troops

from Iraq by the end of 2011,” Obama said.

He said both he and the Iraqi prime minister “have no doubt that there will be some tough days ahead. There will be attacks on Iraqi security forces and the American troops supporting them. There are still those in Iraq who would murder innocent men, women and children. There are still those who want to foment sectarian conflict.”

“But make no mistake, those efforts will fail,” Obama said.

Obama said the United States does not seek any military bases in Iraq and makes no claim on Iraqi oil resources or territory.

For his part, al-Maliki said the two presidents talked about “every possible area” where the U.S. could play a role in working with the Iraqi government.

“We are about to activate such a strategic framework agreement,” he said.

Al-Maliki is in the United States partly in an effort to encourage foreign investors to return to doing business in his country.

He said Iraqi forces have become “highly capable” after working alongside American troops.

Al-Maliki also pledged to work to ease sectarian unrest in his country among rival Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish factions.

With insurgent bombings and attacks still a major danger, U.S. officials have voiced concerns about continuing violence unless al-Maliki and his Shiite Muslim political allies do more to share power with minority Sunnis and to ease government control over Sunni regions and those dominated by ethnic Kurds. □

Taco Bell ad star Gidget the Chihuahua dies at 15

ROBERT JABLON,

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP)

— Handlers say Gidget the Chihuahua, whose Taco Bell commercials made her a star, has died. She was 15.

The owner of Studio Animal Services in Castaic says Gidget suffered a massive stroke late Tuesday at her trainer’s home in Santa Clarita and had to be euthanized.

Gidget was the sassy mascot in Taco Bell commercials from 1997 to 2000. While other dogs had bit parts, it was her bug-eyed, big-eared face that is seen pronouncing, in a dubbed male voice, “Yo quiero Taco Bell,” Spanish for “I want Taco Bell.”

The ads made the Taco Bell mascot wildly popular, although they provoked some criticism from activists who felt they used Mexican



This undated image provided by Studio Animal Services shows Gidget the Chihuahua, whose Taco Bell commercials made her a star, suffered a massive stroke Tuesday July 21, 2009 at her trainer’s home in Santa Clarita, Calif., and had to be euthanized.

Associated Press

stereotypes.

Gidget also had a role in the movie “Legally Blonde 2.” □



In this photo released by the semi-official Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA) Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, right, presents a gift to his controversial choice First Vice-President Esfandiar Rahim Mashai during a ceremony to mark his farewell as vice president in charge of tourism and cultural heritage, in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, July 22, 2009.

Associated Press

Iran president defies supreme leader over deputy

Read Page B8

Trustee says Palin not involved with defense fund



Trustee for Gov. Sarah Palin's legal defense fund, Kristan Cole, left, speaks to reporters in Wasilla, Alaska on Wednesday, July 22, 2009. Days before Palin is scheduled to leave office, the former vice presidential candidate is facing yet another legal distraction: an independent investigator found evidence she may have violated ethics laws by trading on her position as she sought money for lawyer fees.

At right is fund lawyer Jon Givens.

Associated Press

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press Writer

WASILLA, Alaska — The trustee for a legal defense fund set up to help Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin said the former

vice presidential candidate has never been involved with the trust or accepted money from it to pay her legal bills.

"The governor is not, was not and has not been involved in

this trust," Kristan Cole of Wasilla said Wednesday.

Cole, a local real estate agent and Palin friend, said she had never talked about the trust fund with Palin until Tuesday, when a report by an independent investigator was obtained by The Associated Press.

The account, called the Alaska Fund Trust, was created and vetted by a team of lawyers from around the country who are experts in state and federal law, Cole said. The only lawyer who has ever questioned the fund's legality is Thomas Daniel, the investigator hired by the state personnel board, she said.

Daniel, an Anchorage lawyer, said in the July 14 report that he found probable cause Palin had violated ethics laws by trading on her position as she sought money for legal fees.

Cole lashed out at the news media for disclosing the contents of the confidential report, which she said was

leaked illegally.

"We have witnessed time and again the blatant abuse of a process when it comes to people filing these complaints and illegally discussing them and leaking them to the press," Cole said at a news conference at her real estate office in Palin's hometown.

The latest leak "crosses the line," Cole said, adding that the trust is reviewing its legal options for "reputational harm" caused by Kim Chatman, the Eagle River resident who filed the ethics complaint that led to Daniel's finding.

Jon Givens, an Anchorage attorney who represents the trust, said it is based on similar accounts created for prominent politicians such as Hillary Clinton, Ted Stevens and John Kerry. "If those trusts don't violate the ethics rules of society, why should this one" be considered improper? he said.

Those funds are all based on federal law. Palin is accused

of violating state ethics law.

Palin's friends and supporters created the trust fund, limiting donations to \$150 per person. Cole declined to say how much the fund has raised, but said about 90 percent of the contributions so far are from out of state.

"How can there be intent to influence a governor in Alaska with a \$5 voluntary donation from Kansas?" she asked.

At least 19 ethics complaints have been filed against Palin, most of them after she was named the running mate for GOP presidential candidate John McCain. Most of those have been dismissed, although one was resolved when Palin agreed to reimburse the state more than \$8,000 for the costs associated with nine trips taken with her children.

Palin supporters say the legal fund is needed because of a quirk in Alaska law that prevents state officials from defending the governor against ethics allegations. □



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Virginia Tech gunman's mental records found in home

BOB LEWIS
SUE LINDSEY

Associated Press Writers

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP) — Missing mental health records for a gunman who killed 32 people and himself on a university campus have been discovered in the home of the university clinic's former director, according to a state memo shared with victims' family members. Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, then committed suicide as police closed in. The South Korean student's mental health treatment has been a major issue in the vast investigation of the shootings, yet the records' location had eluded authorities.

They were revealed by a lawyer involved in a lawsuit filed by two families of Cho's victims against the former director, the university and several other parties, claiming gross negligence in failing to prevent the massacre.

A memo from the university to Gov. Tim Kaine's chief legal counsel and shared with victims' family members says Cho's records and those of several other Virginia Tech students were found last week in the home of Dr. Robert C. Miller. The memo was obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The memo said Cho's records were removed from the Cook Counseling Center on the Virginia Tech campus more than a year before the shootings, when Miller left the clinic.

Kaine said a Virginia State Police criminal investigation was under way into why the records disappeared. Removing records from the center is illegal, he said.

Miller, 54, declined to comment when reached at a number for his private practice.

Miller is named as a defendant in the lawsuit filed by the families of slain students Erin Peterson and Julia Pryde. The suit claims Miller was told by Cho's English professors about his disturbing behavior and by the school's residential director that Cho had a history of erratic behavior, suicidal

thoughts and had "blades" in his room.

The lawsuit claims Miller never passed that information on to either of the therapists from the counseling center who dealt with Cho during three 45-minute triage sessions in 2005.

Because Miller never passed on the information and the records were lost, opportunities to "deflect him (Cho) from his dangerous and ultimately tragic course were lost," the lawsuit states.

Notes of the warnings to Miller or those made by the therapists concerning the three meetings were never found by investigators. It is unclear if those are part of the recovered records.

The medical records are protected under state privacy laws.

The state planned to release the records publicly as soon as possible, either by consent from Cho's estate or through a subpoena.

The discovery shakes up the lawsuit, an attorney for the two families said.

"Why would he (Miller) take any student mental health records to his home at any time, and why that student?" Robert T. Hall said.

"It certainly is a question of whether there is more to the Seung-Hui Cho mental health history than we've been told," Hall said.

The discovery calls into question the thoroughness of the ongoing criminal

probe and the findings of the Virginia Tech Review Panel, a commission Kaine appointed to review the catastrophe, one victim's relative said.

"Deception comes to my mind in my first response," said Suzanne Grimes, whose son Kevin Sterne was injured.

"To say it doesn't make sense is an injustice," she said. "It gives me the impression: 'What else are they hiding?'"

While a large part of the shooting investigation focused on how university officials and law enforcement responded following the first



reports of two deaths in a dormitory, family members of victims have also inquired how the troubled Cho slipped through the cracks at university counseling. □

Feds: US man gave al-Qaida NYC subway information

By TOM HAYS and DEVLIN BARRETT
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK — An American man charged with giving al-Qaida information on the New York transit system and attacking a U.S. military base in Afghanistan has been a secret witness in the fight against terror both here and overseas, authorities revealed Wednesday. Court papers unsealed in federal court in Brooklyn identified the defendant as Bryant Neal Vinas, nicknamed "Ibrahim" or "Bashir al-Ameriki," who grew up on Long Island. His identity had been kept secret since his indictment late last year. Court papers show he pleaded guilty in January in a sealed courtroom in Brooklyn and remains in U.S. custody in New York.

Federal prosecutors refused to discuss Vinas' background Wednesday, and no court appearances were scheduled. But a law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official

was not authorized to discuss the case, said Vinas provided critical information that led to a security alert about the New York City subway system last year.

Authorities issued an alert around Thanksgiving last year saying the FBI had received a "plausible but unsubstantiated" report that al-Qaida terrorists in late September may have discussed attacking the subway system around the holidays. The origin of that report, the official said, was Vinas.

The official described Vinas as a militant convert who was captured last year in Pakistan.

Prosecutors charged Vinas in a rocket attack on U.S. forces in Afghanistan in September 2008. Court papers allege he also gave "expert advice and assistance ... on the New York transit system and Long Island Railroad." For five months last year, Vinas received "military-style training" from al-Qaida, according to court papers. □

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Obama seeks to rally support for health care bill



President Barack Obama responds to questions during a news conference in the East Room of the White House in Washington Wednesday, July 22, 2009.

Associated Press

By **BEN FELLER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Six months in office, President Barack Obama sought to rally support for sweeping health care legislation Wednesday night as Congress struggled to find agreement on a historic overhaul. He vowed to reject any measure “primarily funded through taxing middle-class families.”

At a prime-time news conference, Obama defended

his decision to set a midsummer deadline for the House and Senate to act, even if it isn’t met. “I’m rushed because I get letters every day from families that are being clobbered by health care costs, and they ask me can you help,” he said.

The stakes are huge not just for everyday Americans, but also for Obama, who is putting much of his credibility on the line to gain congressional passage. His stepped-up public

role comes as he faces rising criticism from Republicans, sliding public approval ratings and divisions within his party. Obama acknowledged that many people are uneasy about growing federal budget deficits and the fast-rising government debt.

He said that without a deadline for action, a recent proposal to curtail the growth in Medicare costs would not have materialized “until who knows when.” He said in the past few days, leaders in both houses had agreed to incorporate it into legislation taking shape.

Obama stepped to the microphone looking grayer than the man who ran for president and took office in January.

He said that since he moved into the White House, “we have been able to pull our economy back from the brink.”

Yet, he said, “of course we still have a long way to go.” Obama didn’t say so, but unemployment is expected to remain stubbornly high for many months to come. He moved quickly into his pitch for health care legislation, an issue that now towers above all others — and has led at least one Republican to say that it could prove to be the president’s

Waterloo if the drive collapses. “This isn’t about me. I have great health insurance and so does every member of Congress,” he said.

The president said that in addition to helping millions who lack coverage, the health care legislation is central to the goal of eventually rebuilding the economy stronger than it was before the recession that began more than a year ago.

He said Medicare and Medicaid, government health care programs for the elderly and the poor, are the “biggest driving force behind our federal deficit.”

Unless they are tamed, he said to a national TV audience, “we will not be able to control our deficit. If we do not reform health care, your premiums and out-of-pocket costs will continue to skyrocket.”

The president said he believed it was possible to fund more than two-thirds of the cost of health care legislation by eliminating waste and redirecting federal funds already being spent. The rest must come from higher taxes, he said.

The administration proposed last winter a plan to raise taxes on upper-income wage earners

by limiting their ability to claim deductions.

Congress looked unfavorably on the proposal, and Obama said he was open to alternatives — with one notable exception.

“If I see a proposal primarily funded through taxing middle-class families, I’m going to be opposed to it,” he said.

It was not immediately clear whether the president was signaling he would accept at least some higher taxes on middle-class families as the price for winning passage.

As a candidate he vowed repeatedly that no one earning under \$250,000 would face higher taxes if he won the White House.

The president stepped to the microphone as Congress labored over his call for legislation to expand health care to millions who lack it, as well as control the costs of medical care generally.

In his opening statement, he stressed the second of those two goals.

“In the past eight year, we saw the enactment of two tax cuts, primarily for the wealthiest Americans, and a Medicare prescription program, none of which were paid for.”

He vowed anew that he wouldn’t sign health care legislation that wasn’t paid for, although his administration has exempted from that pledge an estimated \$245 billion to raise Medicare fees for doctors.

“This debate is not a game for these Americans, and they cannot afford to wait for reform any longer,” Obama said. “They are looking to us for leadership. And we must not let them down.”

Holding his 10th extended news conference, Obama was renewing a message that the White House says he cannot pound enough: making health coverage affordable and sustainable is so vital that anything less will erode the economic stability of families, businesses and even the government.

The complex work of getting bills through the House and Senate is proving difficult. Republican leaders contend Obama’s effort and the emerging bills are rushed and risky, and members of Obama’s own Democratic Party are split on how to structure and pay for a daunting overhaul. □

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Fla. town fires manager married to porn star

FORT MYERS BEACH, Fla. — A South Florida town manager who married a porn star last year was fired at an emergency meeting after the mayor and council members learned about it.

Fort Myers Beach town council voted 5-0 to fire Scott Janke “without cause” after Mayor Larry Kiker called the Tuesday night meeting.

Kiker said he learned that afternoon that Janke’s wife is an adult film star, and the elected officials took the action a few hours later.

“At no time did we make a judgment call on the activities of Mr. Janke or his wife,” Kiker told The Associated Press. “It’s a matter of how effective he becomes after this situation. How much disruption there is.”

Adult Industry News recently

reported that Janke’s wife, Anabela Mota Janke, goes by the stage name Jazella Moore. Kiker said a clause in Janke’s contract permitted the council to fire him with a majority vote. He said he considers the Jankes friends.

“Our heads are held high,” Scott Janke said. “We have nothing to be embarrassed about. We’ve done nothing wrong.”

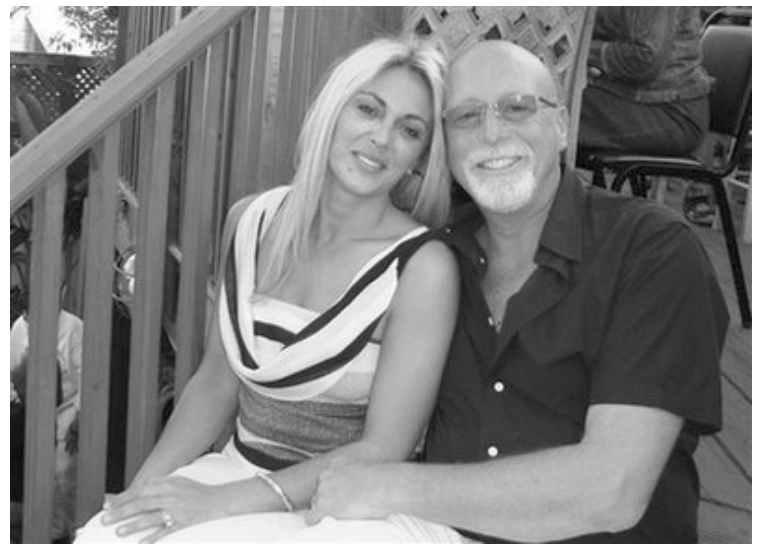
Janke said the mayor called him before the meeting, but didn’t invite him to attend. He said Kiker called after the meeting to tell him the outcome, and Janke said he hasn’t heard from him or any council member since. Janke will get a severance package worth six months salary, which comes to about \$50,000, plus health benefits.

Janke said he and his wife

were married in October and are taking care of their three teenage children. He wouldn’t comment on any possible legal action against the town.

Kiker acknowledged that Janke had violated no rules or laws and added that he had done a good job for the island town that had about 6,500 people, according to the 2000 Census. But the mayor was concerned whether Janke could remain effective and not distract the community from town business.

“One of the reasons we brought him here is that there were some divisive problems on the beach,” Kiker said. “We wanted him to bring people together.” Councilman Tom Babcock, responding to residents’ questions, said at a council meeting Wednesday that Janke was fired because



This undated photo provided by Scott Janke shows Scott Janke, right and his wife Anabela Mota Janke. Janke, a South Florida town manager who married an adult film star last year was fired at an emergency meeting after the mayor and council members learned about it. Fort Myers Beach town council voted 5-0 to fire Janke ‘without cause’ after Mayor Larry Kiker called the Tuesday night July 21, 2009 meeting.

Associated Press

his wife’s profession brought an inaccurate image to Fort Myers Beach, according to the News-Press of Fort Myers.

“When you become a public figure you are held to a different level of scrutiny and ethics,” Babcock said.

Janke said it’s too early to think about what’s next.

“A termination on a resume does not look good, no matter what the reason,” Janke said.

Janke began working for Fort Myers Beach in March 2008. He has also worked for the City of Marathon in the Keys and for various local governments throughout Alaska since 1989.

Judge: NYC unfair to minority firefighter recruits

LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City has discriminated against minorities in its hiring of firefighters, causing blacks and Hispanics to comprise only 10 percent of the fire department’s work force even though most city residents are minorities, a judge ruled Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Nicholas G. Garaufis agreed with the U.S. Department of Justice and a fraternal order of black firefighters in finding disparities among those taking firefighter recruitment exams in 1999 and 2002 were so wide that no trial was needed to rule against the city.

“These numbers stand in stark contrast to some of the nation’s other large cities, such as Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and Houston, where minority firefighters have been represented in significantly higher percentages,” the judge wrote.

He said the city used the exams to appoint more than 5,300 entry-level firefighters between 1999 and 2007, cheating at least 1,000 minority firefighters of chances to join a force of roughly 11,000 at the Fire Department of New York.

He said 3,100 exam candidates were black and 4,200 were Hispanic but the city appointed only 184 black firefighters and 461 Hispanic firefighters.

The judge said black and Hispanic applicants had disproportionately failed the written examinations and those who passed were placed disproportionately lower down the hiring lists than whites. He said he must now consider remedies.

In a release, city attorney Georgia Pestana said the city was disappointed and disagreed with the

ruling.

In ruling, the judge drew a distinction between the New York City case and the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling finding that New Haven, Connecticut, had improperly set aside the results of its promotional exam for firefighters when blacks and Hispanics did worse than whites.

He said the Supreme Court in the Connecticut case confronted the narrow issue of whether New Haven could defend its decision to toss out exam results by saying it was trying to comply with laws against discrimination in testing.

He said the New York City lawsuit presented a different question: whether the exam had “actually had a disparate impact upon black and Hispanic applicants for positions as entry-level firefighters.” The Connecticut case, he said, “did not confront that issue.”

The judge said the New York City case proved that “when an employment test is not adequately related to the job for which it tests — and when the test adversely affects minority groups — we may not fall back on the notion that better test takers make better employees.”

He added: “The city asks the court to do just that. Regrettably, though, the city did not take sufficient measures to ensure that better performers on its examinations would actually be better firefighters.” Pestana, the city attorney, said the city had developed a new test that was administered in January 2007 and had spent \$2 million on a recruitment campaign that took particular aim at increasing the number of minorities on the FDNY.

As a result, the fire department tripled the number of

African-Americans and nearly doubled the number of Hispanics who took the 2007 exam compared to the previous two exams, Pestana said.

She said minorities now comprise 38 percent of the candidates on the passing list and 33 percent of the 4,000 candidates ranked highest on the list are minorities.

“In addition, over one-third of the most recent graduating class of probationary firefighters are minorities — the most diverse in the city’s history,” Pestana said.

But Paul Washington, a past president of the fraternal order of black firefighters, the Vulcan Society, said racial discrimination “is still alive and well in our city’s institutions.”

“We celebrate today’s decision for recognizing that unfair firefighter exams and other employment schemes that only serve to block qualified candidates have no place in public service,” he said.

In the New York Police Department, more than 16 percent are black and more than 25 percent are Hispanic.





United States' special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke, right, shares a point with Pakistani State Minister for Finance Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar during a press conference in Islamabad, Pakistan on Wednesday, July 22, 2009. Pakistan raised concerns over a U.S.-led offensive in neighboring southern Afghanistan with Holbrooke, who is visiting Islamabad.

NAHAL TOOSI

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani officials voiced fears that a U.S.-led offensive in southern Afghanistan could force Taliban fighters into this nation's restive southwest, but said they had not asked the Americans to stop or slow the operation.

The concerns surfaced Wednesday during a visit to Pakistan by special U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke, who assured Islamabad of Washington's desire to coordinate on anti-militant operations, even as he noted that the Taliban still move freely across the Pakistan-Afghan border.

Associated Press

America's south Afghan offensive worries Pakistan

"We want to be sure that we share with your government and your military, military plans so you can be prepared and coordinate because a lot of different things can happen here," Holbrooke told reporters after meeting with Pakistan's prime minister.

The U.S. is keen on ensuring Pakistan's cooperation in its efforts to stabilize Afghanistan. For years, attempts to crack down on militants in Afghanistan have been undermined by their ability to find safe havens across the lengthy, rugged and porous border in Pakistan. Pakistan's role is especially critical now that the U.S. has sent thousands more troops to Afghanistan to take on a resurgent Taliban.

Early this month, some 4,000

U.S. Marines launched an operation against Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province, which borders Pakistan's Baluchistan province. The offensive comes ahead of next month's Afghan presidential elections.

A senior Pakistani intelligence official said Islamabad has "reservations" about the Helmand offensive because militants crossing the border could further destabilize Baluchistan, long the scene of a low-level insurgency by nationalist groups seeking more autonomy.

NATO's spokesman in Afghanistan, Brig. Gen. Eric Tremblay, said so far there was no sign that significant numbers of Taliban fighters were fleeing into Pakistan

from Helmand and most were heading for safe havens "that are yet to be cleared" by NATO and Afghan forces.

Pakistani officials agreed but said they had sent more troops to the 160 mile- (260 kilometer-) long stretch of border from other parts of the northwest.

If a significant influx does occur, Pakistan may be forced to move troops from its border with India, the intelligence official said, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Despite American efforts to change the perception, Pakistani authorities still view India as their greatest threat because the two nuclear-armed nations have fought three wars over the past six decades. □



SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF JULY 23 - JULY

*matinee: everyday | late show: friday and saturday

AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

| | | |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| PG-13 | HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE | NEW |
| daily: | 5:10 8:15 | |
| matinee: | 2:00 | late show: 11:30 |
| R | THE HANGOVER | |
| daily: | 5:35 7:45 9:50 | |
| matinee: | 1:15 3:25 | late show: 12:00 |
| PG-13 | TRANSFORMER 2 | |
| daily: | 6:00 9:00 | |
| matinee: | 12:00 2:55 | late show: 11:50 |
| PG-13 | I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER | |
| daily: | 4:20 6:30 8:45 | |
| matinee: | 12:00 2:10 | late show: 11:10 |
| PG-13 | YEAR ONE | |
| daily: | 5:00 7:10 9:15 | |
| matinee: | 12:40 2:45 | late show: 11:20 |
| PG-13 | TERMINATOR SALVATION | |
| daily: | 8:15 | |
| matinee: | | late show: 11:00 |
| PG | ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS | 3D |
| daily: | 4:15 6:15 | |
| matinee: | 12:20 2:20 | late show: |

AT PASEO HERENCIA

| | | |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| PG | HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE | NEW |
| daily: | 5:00 8:15 | |
| matinee: | 1:30 | late show: 11:20 |
| R | THE UGLY TRUTH | NEW |
| daily: | 4:30 6:40 8:45 | |
| matinee: | 12:15 2:25 | late show: 11:00 |
| PG-13 | THE PROPOSAL | |
| daily: | 10:00 | |
| matinee: | | late show: 12:20 |
| PG-13 | I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER | |
| daily: | 4:40 6:50 | |
| matinee: | 12:25 2:35 | late show: |
| R | THE HANGOVER | |
| daily: | 5:30 7:40 9:50 | |
| matinee: | 1:15 3:25 | late show: 12:00 |
| PG | ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS | 3D |
| daily: | 4:00 6:00 8:00 | |
| matinee: | 12:00 2:00 | late show: |
| PG-13 | TRANSFORMER 2 | |
| daily: | 5:40 8:30 | |
| matinee: | 12:05 2:50 | late show: 11:25 |
| PG-13 | PUBLIC ENEMIES | |
| daily: | 10:00 | |
| matinee: | | late show: 11:50 |

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Eight dead, nine missing in floods in southern Japan

MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Hundreds of police, soldiers and rescue workers searched Thursday for nine people missing after torrential rains triggered floods and landslides in southern Japan. Eight people, including elderly residents of a nursing home, have been killed.

Most of about 100 residents of the home were brought to the roof and lifted out by helicopter Tuesday after a mudslide hit the building. But five residents were killed before the rescue, and two are still missing.

The ground floor of the two-story building in Hofu City in Yamaguchi Prefecture (state) was inundated, filled with rocks and mud.

Rescue workers and dogs had dug up the five bodies buried in the debris by late Wednesday, a prefectural police official said on condition of anonymity, citing department policy. The victims were aged from 63 to 95.

Television footage showed dozens of soldiers, police and rescue workers

wading through muddy waters and shoveling out debris and rocks at the nursing home.

Also in Hofu, an 85-year-old woman was buried in a separate landslide and found dead Tuesday, and another person drowned after being washed into a swollen river.

In nearby Shimonoseki City, a rescue team Wednesday found the body of a 74-year-old farmer who had fallen into a swollen reservoir.

In addition to the two missing from the nursing home, seven other people were still unaccounted for.

The heavy rains also flooded a nearby water purifying station, cutting off fresh water to nearly 30,000 homes. Defense troops and local officials are to tour affected areas with water trucks and setup makeshift bathrooms and showers.

More than 400 people evacuated in eight cities in Yamaguchi, the prefecture said in a statement. Rivers and canals flooded at more than 100 locations. At least 110 landslides were



A man walks through muddy water gushing out from the entrance of a nursing home for the elderly after it was hit by mudslides in Hofu in Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan, Tuesday, July 21, 2009. Kyodo News reported six people died and eight others remain missing in Yamaguchi and its neighboring prefecture of Tottori after heavy rain triggered mudslides and swelled rivers. At the nursing home three residents died, four others remain missing and another became critically ill, Kyodo said.

reported in Hofu, which lies about 620 miles (1,000 kilometers) southwest of Tokyo.

A seasonal rain front has brought torrential downpours in southwestern Japan since the weekend. Yamaguchi has seen record rainfall for July.

Associated Press

The Meteorological Agency said the peak of the rain has passed in southern Japan, where more than 10 inches of rainfall was reported in 24 hours through Tuesday evening, but it warned of a possibility of more landslides. □

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Iran president defies supreme leader over deputy



**ALI AKBAR DAREINI
LEE KEATH**

Associated Press Writers
TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad showed rare defiance of his strongest backer, Iran's supreme leader, by insisting on his choice for vice president Wednesday despite vehement opposition from hard-liners that has opened a deep rift in the conservative leadership. The tussle over the appointment comes at a time when the clerical leadership is facing its strongest challenge in decades following last

month's disputed presidential election. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's top concern appears to be keeping the strong support of clerical hard-liners so he can withstand attempts by the more moderate, pro-reform opposition to erode his authority. Conservative clerics and politicians have denounced Ahmadinejad's choice for the post of first vice president, Esfandiar Rahim Mashai, because Mashai said last year that Iranians are friends with Israelis. There are also concerns because Mashai is

a relative of Ahmadinejad — his daughter is married to the president's son.

Khamenei ordered Ahmadinejad to remove Mashai, semiofficial media reported Wednesday.

Arguing for a further chance to make his case, Ahmadinejad said, "there is a need for time and another opportunity to fully explain my real feelings and assessment about Mr. Mashai."

The president may be digging in because he fears an attempt by hard-liners to dictate the government he is due to form next month. At the center of the dispute between the president and supreme leader is Mashai, a member of Ahmadinejad's personal inner circle. Iran has 12 vice presidents, and Mashai has been serving in one of the slots in charge of tourism and culture. Ahmadinejad said last week he was elevating Mashai to the first vice presidency. That is the most important of the 12 because it is in line to succeed the president if he dies, is incapacitated or removed. The first vice president also leads Cabinet meetings in the president's absence.

Ahmadinejad is a member of the hard-line camp, but throughout his first term he had disputes over policy and appointments with fellow conservatives, some of whom accused him of hoarding too much power for close associates rather than spreading it among factions.

Most surprising is Ahmadinejad's defiance of Khamenei's order for Mashai's removal. The supreme leader has been the president's top defender in the election dispute, dismissing opposition claims that Ahmadinejad's victory in the June 12 vote was fraudulent. The opposition says pro-reform candidate Mir Hossein Mousavi was the real winner and calls Ahmadinejad's government illegitimate.

Hard-line clerics on Wednesday demanded the president obey Khamenei.

Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami said whether Mashai is immediately dismissed "will test Ahmadinejad's loyalty to the supreme leader."

"When the exalted supreme leader takes a position explicitly, his statement must be accepted by all means and implemented immediately," he said, according to the Mehr news agency. "Those who voted for Ahmadinejad because of his loyalty to the supreme leader expect the president to show his obedience ... in practice."

Ahmadinejad may believe Khamenei's rejection of Mashai is not written in stone and is testing whether he can keep his close associate.

Iran expert Suzanne Maloney pointed out that the supreme leader has not publicly spoken on the issue and reports of his order have been leaked by hard-liners through semiofficial media.

"If Khamenei comes out in Friday prayers calling for (Mashai's) removal, then it would be difficult to imagine Ahmadinejad would refuse that," said Maloney, with the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Washington-based Brookings think tank. Ahmadinejad is "not looking to open his second term by picking a fight with his most important ally in the system," she said.

Khamenei's order to remove Mashai is unusual extension of his powers — perhaps a sign he wants to strengthen his position as unquestioned leader in the face of the reformist threat.

As supreme leader, Khamenei has ultimate say in state affairs and stands at the peak of the unelected clerical leadership that under Iran's Islamic Republic can overrule the elected presidency and parliament.

Traditionally, the supreme leader has stayed out of a public role in government appointments. He is believed often to informally vet choices for senior positions behind the scenes, but he does not have a formal role in approving them or an official power to remove them. Even under Iran's 1997-2005 pro-reform government, with which Khamenei clashed, he never overtly ousted any of its officials.

Now Khamenei is facing tests to his authority on two fronts.

One is from Ahmadinejad, the other is the open defiance from the reformist opposition, which has continued its campaign against Ahmadinejad despite the supreme leader's declarations that the election dispute is over.

Powerful moderate clerics in the religious leadership under Khamenei have backed Mousavi or declined to recognize Ahmadinejad as the victor. Hundreds of thousands held mass protests in support of Mousavi in the weeks after the election, but were crushed in a heavy crackdown that killed at least 20 protesters and left more than 500 in prison. Still, the opposition has managed to hold two smaller protests since, and is demanding a referendum on Ahmadinejad's legitimacy.

The announcement outraged hard-liners, who have opposed Mashai since he said in 2008 that Iranians were "friends of all people in the world — even Israelis." Mashai also angered many top clerics in 2007 when he attended a ceremony in Turkey where women performed a traditional dance and in 2008 when he hosted a ceremony in which women played tambourines. Conservative interpretations of Islam oppose women dancing.

After days of controversy, Khamenei weighed in. The semiofficial Fars news agency reported Wednesday that Ahmadinejad had been notified of the leader's order to remove Mashai.

The deputy parliament speaker, Mohammad Hasan Aboutorabi-Fard, said late Tuesday that Mashai's dismissal was "a strategic decision" by the system of ruling clerics and he must be removed "without delay," according to the semiofficial ISNA news. Later Wednesday, Ahmadinejad stuck by Mashai in a speech at Mashai's farewell ceremony from his lower vice presidential post.

"One of virtues and glories God has bestowed to me in life was to get acquainted with this great, honest and pious man," Ahmadinejad said, according to the state news agency IRNA. □

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Photo by Diane Keijzer

Arias proposes Honduran leader's return in 2 days

MARIANELA JIMENEZ
MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press Writer

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—A new proposal by a mediator for ending Honduras' political crisis would return President Manuel Zelaya to power in two days and offer amnesty for the coup leaders that ousted him. Costa Rican President Oscar Arias presented the 11-point plan Wednesday, saying it was the last proposal he would submit as the chief mediator in the conflict. He said Zelaya and the interim government that took power in the coup should turn to the Organization of American States for a new mediator if they refuse to sign the plan.

Arias warned both sides that time was running out for a peaceful solution to the crisis and urged them to set an example by becoming the first country in modern history to reverse a coup through a negotiated agreement.

"The clock is ticking fast, and it's ticking against the Honduran people," Arias said in Costa Rica's capital, San Jose. "I warn you that that this plan is not perfect. Nothing in democracy is perfect."

Arias said he hoped the two sides would sign the pact Thursday, but acknowledged that he had not persuaded the interim government to allow Zelaya's return to the presidency.

Although it included some new ideas, the main points of the plan did not differ from an earlier proposal that interim President Roberto Micheletti rejected, prompting the United States and other countries to step the pressure with warnings of tough sanctions.

Mauricio Villeda, of the Micheletti delegation, said he would take Arias' proposals back to Honduras to present to the president, congress and the Supreme Court for consideration.

However, Micheletti's foreign minister, Carlos Lopez, repeated the government's position that the executive branch could not overturn a Supreme Court ruling forbidding Zelaya's return to the presidency.

"A proposal of that nature is inconceivable, unacceptable," Lopez told Radio America. Zelaya had given mediators a

midnight deadline to achieve his reinstatement, threatening to return to Honduras with or without an agreement and seek the prosecution of leaders of the coup that forced him into exile.

Such a scenario risks provoking violence: thousands of Honduras have protested almost daily since the June 28 coup both against and in favor of Zelaya. On Wednesday, tens of thousands of Zelaya foes took to the streets in the biggest show of opposition yet to his return.

Rixi Moncada, of Zelaya's delegation, suggested there was little hope that Micheletti would agree to the new plan, saying nothing had changed since the interim government rejected the previous proposal Saturday.

She called on the U.N. Security Council and the OAS to "adopt the coercive measures necessary to force the interim government to submit" to the resolutions that both organizations have approved calling for the return of Zelaya.

The Arias plan includes a timetable that would return Zelaya to Honduras by Friday to carry out the rest of his four-year term, which ends in January 2010. It calls for establishing a power-sharing government by July 27 and holding presidential elections on Oct. 28, a month earlier than scheduled.

The plan also would force Zelaya to drop efforts to change the Honduran constitution, an initiative that provoked his ouster.

Zelaya angered many people in Honduras by ignoring Congress' and the courts' rejection of his effort to hold a referendum on changing the constitution, which many saw as an attempt to abolish presidential term limits and impose a socialist government in the style of Venezuela President Hugo Chavez.

The reconciliation plan would provide Zelaya immunity from prosecution for trying to hold the referendum, along with amnesty for coup leaders.

Arias said he included several new points, including some proposed by the interim government with the help of a U.S. senator, who has not been identified.

Among the new ideas was a truth commission to investigate the events leading up to the coup.

Tens of thousands of Micheletti's supporters rallied in the Honduran capital on Wednesday in one of the biggest demonstrations seen yet. Many chanted "Honduras!", waved the country's blue-and-white flag and wore white shirts printed with the slogan "I'm Defending My Constitution." They accused Zelaya of being a pawn of his ally, the leftist Chavez.

"They wanted to impose communism on us, and we don't want to be communists," said retired gardener Florencio Mejia, 80, as he marched in a blue-and white baseball cap, clutching a Honduran flag.

Dentist Julia Garcia echoed Micheletti's comments that the country would tough out economic sanctions from other countries. "We prefer six months of isolation, to losing our liberty," Garcia said.

Tensions remained high, as marchers and Zelaya supporters exchanged shouts and insults. "These people have all been paid to march, and their bosses would fire them if they didn't come," said Zelaya supporter Alba Galindo.

Asked if the split between Hondurans could ever be healed, Galindo said "only if Zelaya returns."

No foreign government has recognized the Micheletti administration, and the United States has been turning up the pressure for his reinstatement.

Deputy State Department spokesman Robert Wood, speaking to reporters in Washington, said Secretary of State Hillary Clinton warned Micheletti's government in a phone call over the weekend.

U.S. officials are considering sanctions and the European Union has already frozen €65 million (\$92 million) in development aid and warned of further steps.

"The secretary of state made every clear that Mr. Micheletti, the de facto regime, needs to take this mediation effort seriously and respond appropriately," Wood said. "Should that not happen, there are clear consequences with regard to our assistance to Honduras. But I'm not going to go beyond that at this



Costa Rica's President Oscar Arias, left, speaks at the presidential house in San Jose, Wednesday, July 22, 2009. A new proposal to end Honduras' political crisis would restore ousted President Manuel Zelaya in two days. Arias said the proposal is the last plan he will submit as mediator in the conflict.

Associated Press

point. Our focus remains on the mediation effort." Zelaya, meanwhile, said he is moving forward with plans to return, indicating he may not wait for a negotiated solution. "I'm going to my country, my people, to reunite with my family, my wife and my children," Zelaya told Honduras' Radio Globo in an interview Wednesday from neighboring Nicaragua,

where he has been staying at a Managua hotel.

Zelaya said he was gathering Hondurans and Honduran exiles in neighboring countries to participate in his return, and said that once he was reinstated as president, "a process of dialogue and reconciliation and forgiveness will begin, but there will be trial for those who carried out the coup." □

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SPORTS

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Roger Federer of Switzerland clutches the trophy while wearing a new jacket with the number 15, symbolizing his 15th Grand Slam title after defeating Andy Roddick of U.S. in their men's final match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Sunday, July 5, 2009.

Associated Press

Federer, Nadal, Roddick head U.S. Open men's field

WHITE PLAINS, New York (AP) — Five-time defending champion Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Andy Roddick are among eight Grand Slam winners leading the men's field for the U.S. Open.

All top 100 men in the rankings received direct entry on Wednesday into the hard-court tournament, played from Aug. 31 to Sept. 13 in New York.

Federer will be trying to become the first man since Bill Tilden in the 1920s to win the American Grand Slam tournament six consecutive times. By winning the French Open and Wimbledon this year, Federer raised his career total to 15 major titles, breaking Pete Sampras' record of 14.

Nadal missed Wimbledon with sore knees and hasn't played since late May, when he was upset in the fourth round at the French Open as the four-time defending champion. He will be trying to complete a career Grand Slam at Flushing Meadows. □



Michael Phelps dives into the pool at the start of the the finals in the men's 100-meter butterfly at the U.S. National Swimming Championships in Indianapolis, Thursday, July 9, 2009. Phelps finished in a world record time of 50.22 seconds in

Associated Press

Swimsuit makers frustrated on eve of world championships

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — The manufacturers of space-age swimsuits have grown so frustrated over the current mess in the pool that they are ready to take a step back in time and return to old fashioned briefs.

Traditional swimming events at the world championships begin Sunday and manufacturers are counting on a change in leadership at FINA, swimming's governing body, before then to help settle things.

"We're in charge of making technology and helping swimmers to achieve their best but right now what's happening isn't fair," said Matthew Zimmer, promotion director for Californian manufacturer TYR.

"So if my choice is between fair and briefs and unfair and what's going on right now, we're going to take briefs every day, and I think every athlete would too because this is out of control." FINA has come under criticism for its failure to regulate the rapid advances in swimsuit technology that led to 108 world records last year and nearly 30 so far this year.

Some suits are suspected of creating "air trapping" effects that artificially enhance speed. Last month, FINA approved 202 suits and rejected 10 others. The move to approve modified versions of suits that were initially rejected has disappointed the United States

and Australia — the sport's two most powerful nations.

Speedo's LZR Racer, the suit responsible for most of last year's world records, is now widely considered slower than Jaked's 01 and Arena's Powerskin R-Evolution.

"We're happy in this specific moment, yes, but it's still a mess," said Arena global marketing director Giuseppe Musciacchio. "It can't go on like this. These are serious problems. These suits don't work the same on every athlete and they cost a lot. I think FINA needs to take a step backward."

TYR had a suit similar to Jaked's and Arena's rejected by FINA and appealed to a French court, which last week agreed that the suits need to be retested but ruled there wasn't enough time to do so before the worlds.

"It didn't entirely solve the problem for Rome and the athletes here," Zimmer said. "We'll see if athletes take issue and stand up against what has been imposed on them in an arbitrary way. At this point, it's somewhat out of the hands of the suit manufacturers and it comes down to the athletes saying, 'Is this right and are we going to stand for it?'"

USA Swimming has made a few proposals to change FINA's rules regarding swimsuits. Most notably, the Americans would like to see swimming rule 10.7 altered.

Continued on Page B12

MWC comm.: BCS changes could take 5 years

By KEN RITTER

Associated Press Writer

HENDERSON, Nev. — The top administrator of the Mountain West Conference said Wednesday that it could take five years to change the way college football championships are decided.

Acknowledging the MWC was still sore about undefeated Utah being shut out of last year's national championship game, Commissioner Craig Thompson vowed to keep lobbying Congress, Bowl Championship Series administrators and college football's 10 other conferences for a revamped playoff system.

"We feel a change needs to be made and inclusion needs to be broader," he said.

In the meantime, Thompson said conference board members decided not to penalize athletes by balking at signing a broadcasting contract and walking away from the existing postseason bowl system. The Mountain West on July 8 became the last conference to sign a broadcasting deal with ESPN for the 2011-14 seasons.

"We couldn't take our kids voluntarily out of the chance to play in a BCS bowl game," Thompson said during a state-of-the-conference address to media members at a Las Vegas-area casino resort. "As much as we would like to see change in the system, it is the only system."

At issue are the number of automatic bids awarded to conferences for postseason play in top-tier bowls, and the money those appearances bring. □

Frank Schleck wins 17th stage of Tour de France

JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press Writer

LE-GRAND-BORNAND, France (AP) — Alberto Contador closed in on the overall victory at the Tour de France Wednesday after finishing second behind Frank Schleck of Luxembourg in the 17th stage as the race left the Alps.

Lance Armstrong trailed more than 2 minutes back and fell from second to fourth place overall in the 105-mile ride from Bourg-Saint-Maurice to Le Grand-Bornand — seen by many as the toughest stage this year.

The stage likely ended any realistic chance Armstrong had of overtaking his Astana teammate Contador, and the seven-time Tour champion will now have to fight for a place on the podium instead.

Contador held on to the yellow jersey by staying with Schleck and his younger brother Andy in a three-man breakaway at the end of the stage. Andy Schleck finished third while Armstrong was fifth, 2:18 back.

"I'm very proud of myself — I'm proud of my brother," Frank Schleck said.

The Schleck brothers both leapfrogged Armstrong in the overall standings, with Andy 2:26 behind Contador in second place and Frank 3:25 behind in third. Armstrong trails Contador by 3:55.

The stage featured five climbs, but the drama set in during the last two — the super-steep Romme and Colombiere passes. Contador proved he simply cannot be shaken by his rivals in the mountains.

On the Colombiere, Armstrong

couldn't keep up when Contador pulled away with Astana teammate Andreas Kloeckner and the Schlecks, who ride for the Saxo Bank team.

Instead, Armstrong stayed back alongside Britain's Bradley Wiggins to protect Contador.

Wiggins entered the day in third place overall and would have been helped by any effort from Armstrong to close the gap to the leaders.

So the Texan decided to wait, for a while. With about 8.7 miles left, Armstrong stepped on the gas to leave Wiggins behind.

"I couldn't find my acceleration to go with the other guys," Armstrong said. "I was there stuck with Wiggins. I had to wait until it got steeper, when you knew you could definitely



Brothers Frank and Andy Schleck of Luxembourg, react as Frank, right, crosses the finish line to win the 17th stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 105.3 miles with start in Bourg-Saint-Maurice and finish in Le Grand-Bornand, Alps region, France, Wednesday July 22, 2009. Second is Alberto Contador of Spain, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, left, and third is Frank's brother Andy Schleck, wearing the best young rider's white jersey, rear.

Associated Press

NFLPA: Vick met with union leader on Tuesday

By HANK KURZ JR.

AP Sports Writer

RICHMOND, Va. — Michael Vick met with NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith earlier this week, after the former Atlanta Falcons quarterback finished serving 23 months in federal custody for a dogfighting conviction.

George Atallah, assistant executive director for external affairs of the player's union, says Vick and Smith met one-on-one on Tuesday. Atallah gave no additional details.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has suspended Vick indefinitely, and said Tuesday that he'll decide whether to reinstate Vick "in the near future." Goodell did not elaborate, but has said repeatedly in recent months that he would wait for Vick to finish serving his sentence before meeting with the 29-year-old quarterback.

Vick was freed from home confinement Monday, but still must serve three years' probation for his federal conviction and a related state conviction.

NFL training camps open for

veterans next week.

The union's position has been that it will support Vick on a personal level until Goodell decides how to proceed, but Atallah said Smith will likely raise the issue with Goodell.

"They talk frequently on a number of issues and I'm sure this is going to be one of them at some point," Atallah told The Associated Press

in a telephone interview Wednesday.

Vick's meeting with Goodell is critical to his chance at winning reinstatement. The commissioner has said he wants to see remorse and evidence that Vick has changed. Goodell also has said that Vick must not only convince him, but the public that he is reformed. □

go away.

"I probably should have gone with the early acceleration."

Armstrong isn't ruling out second place on the podium.

"Yes, it's still my goal, I think it's possible," he said.

The elder Schleck collected his second stage win at cycling's premiere event — after winning another Alpine stage in 2006 up to the L'Alpe d'Huez ski station.

The Schlecks were the main attackers against Contador during the final two punishing climbs, and at times took turns relaying each other or trying to shake the Spaniard.

"We bet everything — make or break it," Frank Schleck said. "We deserved to win ... we attacked one after another. We countered well — it was a good tactic."

When Contador, Kloeckner and the Schlecks were alone in front on the Colombiere, the Spaniard surprisingly mounted his own attack on the two brothers — but only his German teammate got dropped.

Contador said he had discussed attacking the Schlecks with team manager Johan Bruyneel by radio, who then advised him to take it up with Kloeckner. □



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AL Roundup

Yanks' Mitre gets first win since 2007

NEW YORK (AP) — Pitcher Sergio Mitre earned his first win in two years and Robinson Cano hit a two-run homer as the New York Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles 6-4 for its fifth straight American League victory on Tuesday.

Alex Rodriguez had a key two-run single for the Yankees, who had just six hits. The Yankees are a major league-best 43-22 since Rodriguez came off the disabled list May 8 following hip surgery.

The Yankees (56-37) improved to a season-best 19 games over .500 and took a one-game lead in the AL East over Boston, which lost to Texas.

Mitre (1-0) was called up from Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre before the game. He allowed four runs, three earned, and eight hits over 5 2-3 innings in his first major league start since Sept. 15, 2007. It was his first win since July 29, 2007, for Florida at San Francisco.

Brian Roberts had three hits for Baltimore, which has lost nine straight in the Bronx and fell to 1-13 in road games against the AL East this season.

At Oakland, California, Michael Cuddyer hit a go-ahead triple in the 10th inning as Minnesota beat Oakland.

Cuddyer's two-out triple off All-Star closer Andrew Bailey (4-3) scored Joe Mauer, who singled with one out.

Delmon Young hit an RBI triple in the fourth and Nick Punto followed with a sacrifice fly that tied the game at 2 for Minnesota, which squandered a 12-2 lead a night earlier.

It was the biggest comeback in Oakland history and matched Minnesota's worst collapse.

That game featured two grand slams, eight total home runs and 39 hits — 22 by Oakland. There were only 11 hits Tuesday.

At Arlington, Texas, rookie Tommy Hunter pitched six solid innings to beat Josh Beckett as Texas knocked Boston out of first place in the AL East.

The Red Sox have lost four straight for the first time since last July, scoring only eight runs in the stretch.

Hank Blalock put Texas ahead to stay with a two-run single in the first, though Beckett (11-4) retired 13 batters in a row after that until Michael Young's one-out single in the sixth. It was his third complete game in six starts.

In other AL games it was, L.A. Angels 8, Kansas City 5, 1st game; L.A. Angels 10, Kansas City 2, 2nd game; N.Y. Yankees 6, Baltimore 4; Detroit 9, Seattle 7; Cleveland 2, Toronto 1; Texas 4, Boston 2; Tampa Bay 3, Chicago White Sox 2; and Minnesota 3, Oakland 2, 10 innings. □



New York Yankees' Sergio Mitre delivers a pitch during the first inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Associated Press

WNBA Roundup

Atlanta beat defending champ Detroit

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) — Reserves Ivory Latta and Angel McCoughtry combined for 42 points as the Atlanta Dream beat the Detroit Shock 98-95 in overtime on

Wednesday, the latest loss for the defending WNBA champion.

Another reserve, Michelle Snow, added 16 points and 12 rebounds for Atlanta.

Kara Braxton had 25 points and 12 rebounds for Detroit, which went to overtime for the fourth time in six games and is mired at the bottom of the Eastern Conference.

Snow appeared to win the game with a hook shot at the end of regulation. The shot was originally ruled good, but a video review showed it came just after the buzzer.

Liberty 77, Sky 70

At Chicago, reserve guard Sidney Spencer scored 12 of her 15 points in the fourth quarter to help New York rally for a second straight victory. Chicago led 67-61 with 5:53 left in regulation following a Kristi Toliver jumper. □

SWIMSUIT

Continued from Page B10

The current rule states that: "No swimmer shall be permitted to use or wear any device that may aid his speed, buoyancy or endurance during a competition."

USA Swimming wants the words "or swimsuit" inserted after "device" and an independent agency used for testing. The Americans would also like a rule limiting swimsuit coverage beyond the shoulders and below the knees.

FINA delegates will examine and vote on the proposals over the next couple of days.

"I think the majority of the world wants to see something done," USA Swimming president Jim Wood told The Associated Press. "I mean it would be great if FINA comes out ahead of time — sometime in the next 24 hours — and announces what they're going to do. If not, I hope the rest of the voters get going on this." But FINA doesn't appear ready to budge.

"A swimsuit is not a device. A swimsuit is equipment," FINA executive director Cornel Marculescu told The AP. "They can propose whatever they want, we are in a democratic world, but a device is clearly defined in the rules."

But with the rules changing from month to month, manufacturers have been left guessing.

"I still don't know what rules to use starting in September. If the rules change for January, we need four months of time for redesigns," Arena's Musciacchio said.

Making matters more complicated is that Julio Maglione of Uruguay will take over from Mustapha Larfaoui as FINA's president on Friday.

Maglione is rumored to favor a return to briefs.

"I'm hope it's more than a rumor," Zimmer said. "The new president is going to have to clean house. That's really the only way that this can happen. And I don't just say that for us. We know that Arena is very upset, Speedo has got to be really upset about what's happening, just because we've all invested a lot of money." □

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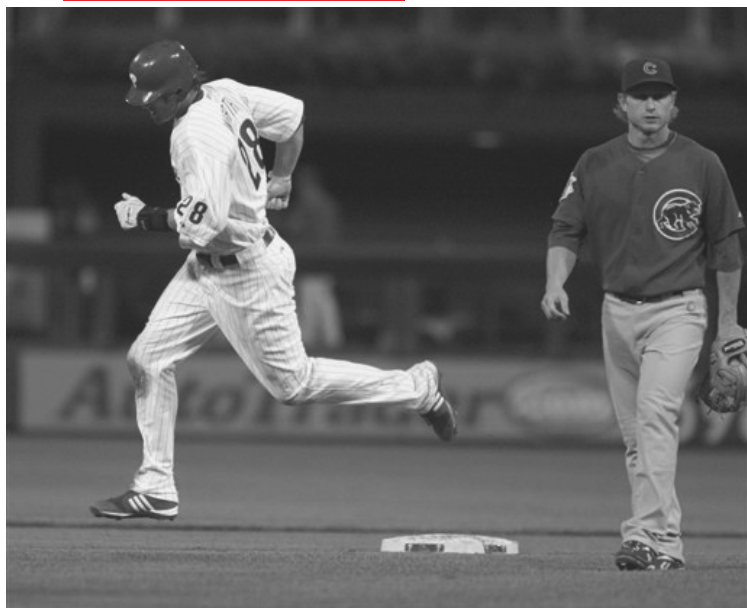
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Philadelphia Phillies' Jayson Werth, left, runs the bases after he hit a three-run walk off home run against the Chicago Cubs in the 13th inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 21, 2009, in Philadelphia. Phillies win 4-1.

Associated Press

NL Roundup

Werth's homer lifts Phillies over Cubs 4-1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Jayson Werth hit a three-run homer with two outs in the 13th inning to send the Philadelphia Phillies to their 10th straight victory, 4-1 over the Chicago Cubs in the National League on Tuesday. The NL East-leading Phillies are on their longest winning streak in 18 years. They won 13 straight from July 30 to Aug. 12, 1991.

Jimmy Rollins homered and the Phillies got another strong outing from Joe Blanton, who allowed one run in seven innings. Four relievers threw six hitless innings. Clay Condrey (6-2) tossed a perfect inning to earn the win. Jeff Samardzija (0-1) retired the first two batters he faced before walking Ryan Howard and Raul Ibanez. Werth hit his 21st homer.

Chicago's Rich Harden gave up one run and four hits, striking out six in seven innings.

Kosuke Fukudome's RBI double in the fourth tied it at 1.

Dodgers 12, Reds 3

At Los Angeles, Rafael Furcal hit a two-run homer and drove in four runs, and Matt Kemp added a two-run shot as Los Angeles got its 11th consecutive home victory over Cincinnati.

Manny Ramirez was hit on the side of his left hand by a pitch

from Homer Bailey leading off the third inning. He went to a hospital for precautionary X-rays, which were negative. He is listed as day to day.

The NL West-leading Dodgers (60-34) won their fourth straight and are 26 games over .500 for the first time since 1991.

Randy Wolf (5-4) gave up four hits and two runs in 7 1-3 innings and had two hits, including an RBI double.

Ramirez had a two-run triple in the first that made it 2-0.

Marlins 3, Padres 2

At San Diego, Chris Volstad pitched seven strong innings to lead Florida past San Diego.

The Padres had only five singles until rookie Kyle Blanks hit Leo Nunez's first pitch of the ninth inning for his first major league homer. Hanley Ramirez had three of Florida's 12 hits.

The Padres, who have the second-worst record in the NL, dropped to 12-32 since June 1, the worst in the majors in that stretch.

Philadelphia 4, Chicago Cubs 1, 13 innings

Milwaukee 2, Pittsburgh 0

Washington 4, N.Y. Mets 0

Atlanta 8, San Francisco 1

Houston 11, St. Louis 6

Arizona 6, Colorado 5

Florida 3, San Diego 2

L.A. Dodgers 12, Cincinnati 3

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Colombia pide la “no injerencia” a críticos de pacto con EEUU sobre bases

BOGOTÁ (AFP) - Colombia pidió este martes no interferir en sus asuntos internos a los países vecinos que critican la negociación de un acuerdo por el cual Estados Unidos utilizaría tres bases militares colombianas.

El canciller Jaime Bermúdez declaró que Colombia está avanzando en el convenio con Washington acogiendo el principio de la “no injerencia en asuntos internos de otros Estados”.

“Y así como lo estamos haciendo de esa manera, pedimos y solicitamos que sea visto por terceros Estados”, añadió el jefe de la diplomacia colombiana, tras recordar que países como Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua y Venezuela han manifestado cierta preocupación por este acuerdo”.

Bermúdez señaló que el gobierno colombiano nunca se ha manifestado sobre tratados de sus vecinos con otros países, aún si los considera “buenos” o “preocupantes” y se refirió en particular a



El presidente de Colombia, Álvaro Uribe (izq) y el secretario de Comercio de Estados Unidos, Gary Locke, en el Departamento de Comercio en Washington, el 29 de junio de 2009. Foto:mandelngan/AFP

Desde el aeroclub donde robaron una avión denunciaron que fue para el narcotráfico

SANTA FE - El presidente del aeroclub de San Francisco de Córdoba, Roberto Alberto estimó que los delincuentes que robaron ayer una avioneta de su entidad, lo hicieron “para el narcotráfico”, y denunció que no es la primera vez que ocurre un hecho similar

La avioneta fue robada ayer del aeroclub por una banda de delincuentes armados y encapuchados y fue hallada en las últimas horas en un campo cercano a la localidad santafesina de Ceres, a unos 500 kilómetros del lugar del asalto.

Fuentes policiales informaron a la agencia de noticias Télam que la aeronave, sin rastros de sus ocupantes, fue hallada esta madrugada y que presentaba daños en el tren de aterrizaje, por lo que se presume que el piloto debió realizar un aterrizaje de emergencia presumiblemente por las malas condiciones del tiempo.

El descenso se realizó en un campo arado, lo que provocó daños en la avioneta, una Piper Cherokee 300 de seis plazas, valuada en unos 120.000 dólares.

El robo se inició el lunes, cerca de las 21 cuando, cuando cinco delincuentes encapuchados y fuertemente armados irrumpieron en el Aeroclub de San Francisco, población ubicada a 226 kilómetros al noreste de la capital

cordobesa.

Los delincuentes redujeron a los cuidadores del lugar, que en ese momento estaban acompañados por otras personas festejando el Día del Amigo.

Después de varias horas, alrededor de las 4.30 los delincuentes abordaron la aeronave que se guardaba en un hangar y, pese a la negativa del piloto para volar, pudieron en marcha la avioneta y escaparon.

“Es muy fácil robar una avión, sobre todo en los aeroclubes que somos débiles por estar en las afueras de la ciudad. No es un caso aislado, ni es el primero que padecemos”, dijo al canal de noticias TN el presidente del aeroclub, quien agregó que hace dos años fue robado otro avión que tiempo después fue recuperado. En esa oportunidad también se estimó en que el siniestro tenía vinculación con el narcotráfico.

“Me gustaría hacer un llamado de atención a quien corresponda.

No puede ser que sea tan fácil robar un avión, que sea tan fácil transitar por el espacio aéreo argentino y que sean tan permeables las fronteras. En Argetnina no hay radarización para saber los vuelos que hay”, evaluó Alberto

Venezuela.

“Nunca hemos dicho, por ejemplo, ni hemos opinado sobre cuando Venezuela rompió relaciones con Estados Unidos ni cuando las retomó ahora”, dijo.

“Tampoco nos hemos metido a opinar sobre la presencia rusa en aguas venezolanas, ni tampoco los acuerdos que pueda hacer Venezuela con países de la región, países hermanos, ni tampoco las relaciones con Cuba, ni tampoco con China”, subrayó.

El presidente venezolano, Hugo Chávez, anunció el lunes que revisará las relaciones con Colombia por el acuerdo con Estados Unidos.

Según el mandatario, la presencia de tropas estadounidenses en el país vecino representa una “amenaza” para Venezuela, que comparte con Colombia

una frontera de 2.219 km, a menudo sobresaltada por acciones de grupos ilegales.

Una reunión de alto nivel entre representantes de Colombia y Venezuela, prevista para este martes en Bogotá, fue cancelada, confirmó Bermúdez.

Chávez se sumó a las críticas de sus homólogos de Bolivia, Evo Morales, que tildó el convenio de traición; de Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, que también lo considera una amenaza para el continente; y del gobierno de Ecuador, que mantiene rotos los lazos diplomáticos con Colombia.

El canciller colombiano reiteró que la ampliación de la asistencia militar norteamericana es “necesaria para ser más eficaces en la lucha contra el narcotráfico y el terrorismo”, lo que redundará en seguridad para la región. □

Ecuador denuncia ser blanco de guerra mediática de Colombia

QUITO (AP)- La filmación y las acusaciones según las cuales el gobierno del presidente Rafael Correa tiene vínculos con las FARC, son parte de “una guerra mediática” que ese país utiliza cuando tiene problemas internos, dijo el miércoles el ministro de Seguridad Interna y Externa, Miguel Carvajal. En declaraciones a la televisora Gama, afirmó que “es uno más de los episodios de la guerra mediática que Colombia, al parecer está acostumbrada (a utilizar) por su guerra interna y puede haber escogido al gobierno de Ecuador como uno de los objetivos de esa guerra mediática”.

Según Carvajal, cada vez que el gobierno de Colombia tiene problemas internos de índole política “nos sacan una sorpresa: un video, que encontraron algo en una computadora, cualquier momento aparece cualquier ministro, cualquier dirigente de nuestro país en otra computadora... y Ecuador tiene que estar dispuesto a estar respondiendo y respondiendo”. No mencionó cuál conflicto interno pudo haber propiciado el episodio en cuestión.

Afirmó que el gobierno de Ecuador “ha sido el más duro para no tolerar ninguna práctica, ninguna presencia, de grupos irregulares colombianos en nuestro territorio. El número de patrullajes, la presencia militar en nuestra frontera, el número de instalaciones guerrilleras colombianas destruidas... es incomparable con los años anteriores”.

Un video que fue entregado a la AP bajo la condición de no revelar su origen y cuyo contenido investiga la fiscalía colombiana, muestra al comandante guerrillero de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) Jorge Briceño, alias “Mono Jojoy”, aludiendo a aportes económico dados en el 2006 por la guerrilla al entonces candidato presidencial Rafael Correa, ahora presidente de Ecuador. □



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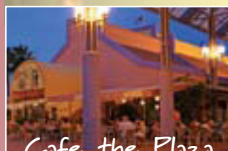
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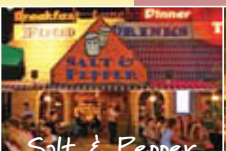
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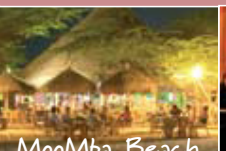
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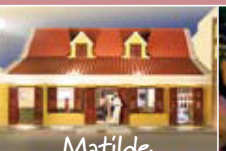
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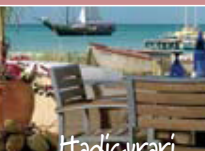
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